Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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NOTICE TO READERS As of 2 January 1991, television sourcelines in the DAILY REPORT will reflect how a station identifies itself. In most cases, this change eliminates the "Television Service" designation in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new television sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

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Algeria

Bendjedid Views Maghreb Unity, Gulf Crisis

LD1001224491 Algiers APS in English 1020 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 10 Jan (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid Wednesday here [attended] a collation at the honour of members of the Maghreb Consultative Council (Majlis ech-Choura) who ended their meeting which started Monday. The collation was also attended by the head of government, Mouloud Hamrouche and the chairman of the People's National Assembly, Abdelaziz Belkhadem.

The president of the republic seized this occasion to [hold a] dialogue with members of the Consultative Council and express the depth of his thought about a number of questions. In this context, the president of the republic committed himself on behalf of the heads of state of the Union of Arab Maghreb (UMA), to take into consideration the recommendations of the Consultative Council so as the Maghreb unity for which the bases have already been laid, be a reality.

The head of state underlined that the Maghreb states while edifying their unity, must not forget their responsibilities towards the Arab nation of which they are an indivisible part. The president of the republic said he was confident in the advent of the Arab global unity which, he said, will be realized through the regional gathering which are able to ease dialogue, rapprochment and thus unitary action. The great mutations the world is witnessing, the president of the republic said, reinforce our faith in our common destiny and our will to center our action on the edification of the Arab Maghreb as this is an imperious action dictated by history, environment and the world tendency towards regional gatherings.

This is mainly the case of Europe which was divided in the recent past between East and West and is now talking with only one voice, the head of state continued. Moreover, President Chadli Bendjedid called for an intensification of efforts to bring closer the peoples of the Maghreb and realize the necessary complementarity for the edification of a Maghreb with neither frontiers nor obstacles, "because, the head of state said, it is impossible for us in the middle of gatherings and groups which are constituted throughout the world, to defend [word indistinct] interests, make our voice heard and overcome challenges".

"The circumstances to hasten the realization of a unified Maghreb society are favorable as the will exists and the determination is stronger", said the president of the republic who insisted on the taking into consideration of the components of the Maghreb society and its customs "while putting the stress on common aspects". "The political unity, the head of state explained, is not sufficient. The Maghreb citizen must be aware that this Maghreb edification is at his service to be able to defend it".

The firm hope is permitted, the head of state said, to see the forthcoming Council of the Presidency of UMA take decisions which would enable the reinforcement of the structure of the Union and achievement of the edification of the great Maghreb. Concerning the dynamics followed up till now in the edification of the Maghreb, the president of the republic insisted during this meeting on the necessity to take advantage from the experiences of the oher regional gatherings, after analyzing them and taking what convinces us in conformity, he said, with the civilizational values of the Maghreb society which must not be neglected. The head of state also warned against any blind mimesis [imitation] either in the organizational [or] cultural aspect. This will enable us, he said, to leave a solid basis to future generations.

The president of the republic also dealt with the Gulf crisis and said that efforts are continuing so as to avoid the worst thanks to common will, adding in this way that there is a certain evolution. "Our hope is great about the possibility to find a peaceful solution", he added. Talking about his recent tour, the head of state said it fell in the frame of efforts deployed by Maghrebins to convince all the sides on the necessity to avoid the catastrophe. This tour, he said, enabled us to have a clearer idea about this thorny question".

FLN Issues Communique on Gulf Crisis

LD1301233791 Algiers APS in English 1016 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 13 Jan (APS)—The political bureau of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Party issued Saturday a communique on the Gulf crisis in which it underlined that "the various actions undertaken by the international organizations and governments must continue in order to stop the infernal breaking of the machine which threatens with a destructive war in the Middle East. [No close quote as received]

However, the communique added, these actions and initiatives can fail and consequently the last word will be that of the partizans of war which will affect the peoples of the area. Thus, it is necessary to prepare, from now onward, means of resistance against this war which may burst starting from January 15.

This war which is being prepared can not be justified by its objectives which can be reached by peaceful means. The numerous declarations trying to define the objectives of this war raise a number of interrogations about the real motivations and intentions about a risk of such gravity. What makes international legality lose its sense, the communique continues, is the belonging of forces concentrated in the area to states which have lost any credibility from the Arab and Islamic peoples because of their complicity and partiality against Arab causes [word indistinct] they are discussed at the United Nations.

One should recall, the communique added, that the Algerian people were, during more than seven years, victims of a war waged against them under the cover of

a "legitimist" legality which colonialism granted itself and an Atlantic legality which enabled it to use all the NATO arsenals to wage this war which will remain in history and in spite of this self granted legitimacy, one of the most unfair wars.

The FLN Party political bureau calls for the organization of popular demonstrations soon after the beginning of this war and expressed the hope to see all parties and associations unite so as to give these demonstrations a popular and unitary aspect.

It also launches a call to all the instances and mass organizations throughout the Arab and Islamic world to support this initiative, work for its success, eliminate the spectre of war and ask for the evacuation of foreign troops from the Arab area and the settlement of all the problems of the area through peaceful means.

Statement on PLO Deaths Urges Arabs To Close Ranks

LD1501163891 Algiers APS in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 15 Jan (APS)—Algeria has received with emotion and sorrow the news of the perfidious assassination of the two outstanding leaders of the Palestinian resistance, brother Abu Iyad, Salah Khalaf, and brother Abu al-Hawl, Ha'il 'Abd al-Hamid. This came Tuesday in a statement made by an official Foreign Ministry spokesman.

The statement further says: "This indescribable act, committed against the Palestinian people at a time when the Arab nation is facing the most serious and unprecendented threats, has added to the list of the Palestinian leaders assassinated by the enemies of the Palestinian cause and the Arab nation, and has inflicted yet another loss on the Palestinian people in their heroic intifadah".

The statement points out that; "Algeria, which strongly condemns these hideous assassinations, prays for God's blessings on the souls of these latest martyrs of the Palestinan cause and urges all Arabs in these extremely serious moments where our fate is being decided to close ranks, transcend their disputes, and put the higher interests of the Arab nation above any consideration".

'Zionist Pilots' Allegedly in Saudi Arabia

NC1501193891 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Mundhir al-Dajani, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Algeria, has disclosed that 142 Zionist pilots arrived in Najd and Hejaz last week to join the U.S. Air Force and participate in the American-planned aggression against Iraq.

In a statement reported by the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Algiers and carried by Algerian television last night, he said the arrival of this batch of Zionist pilots had been coordinated by the American Pentagon and the Zionist war ministry.

The ambassador of the state of Palestine in Algeria held the United States responsible for the failure of the Geneva talks between Tariq 'Aziz and Baker because of America's insistence on imposing its hegemony on the region and its attempt to impose conditions of surrender on Iraq.

He asserted that Iraq, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, represents a key element in the liberation of Palestine.

Anti-U.S. Demonstrations Scheduled for 15 Jan

LD1401110791 Algiers APS in English 0800 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 14 Jan (APS)—A number of political and trade union organizations expressed their full condemnation of the U.S. and allied interference in the Gulf and their firm rejection of the destructive war into which they are dragging the region. The organizations called for staging popular demonstrations as from tomorrow to express [their] full support for the Iraqi and Palestinian peoples and condemnation of the war which the United States is trying launch to destroy Arab capabilities.

President Receives Maghreb Council Members

LD1001003391 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Excerpts] In Algeria, President Chadli Bendjedid today had an audience with the members of the Maghreb Consultative Council at the Aures Hotel, their place of residence.

The president, who was accompanied by the prime minister, had a talk with them on the development of the Arab Maghreb, and ways of giving impetus to efforts aimed at fulfilling the dream of the peoples of the Arab Maghreb: unity, integration, and solidarity for a better future. [passage omitted]

The Maghreb Consultative Council this evening concluded its work after adopting the reports laid down by committees, before submitting them to the Presidential Council of the Arab Maghreb Union. The committees drafted the reports yesterday until late at night, so as to come out with a compilation of recommendations by each committee.

The most important thing in the report of the political committee, which was submitted for discussions, is a denunciation of the boycott imposed against the Libyan Jamahiriyah, and the threats facing Mauritania. The committee in fact recommends that there must be solidarity at Maghreb level in facing up to any external aggression. [passage omitted]

The report also touched upon the Palestinian issue, and the need to support it, as well as the situation in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Party for Justice, Progress Established

LD1001221291 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] A new party has been created. The Algerian Party for Justice and Progress [Le Parti Algerien Pour La Justice et Le Progres]. Its chairman, Mr Ben Kamoukh, who has just submitted an application for authorization at the Interior Ministry, stressed in a press statement the need to promote national production in a scientific way. While denouncing the parasitical private sector and the middle-class, he called for convening a national conference on drafting a national charter by all the parties.

Egypt

Mubarak Warns Shamir Against Gulf Intervention

NC1601220291 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2020 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] There is consensus among responsible political quarters in Cairo that the next few days will be very decisive regarding the war option. These quarters have not expressed strong optimism over the pursuit of any other option. However, no one can predict when the war will break out. There is an agreement whereby the U.S. military command will inform allied troops of the zero hour a few hours before war breaks out.

Concern and tension engulf the ordinary Egyptian. Egyptians oppose the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Most of them, however, oppose war and the destruction of Iraqi military capabilities, particularly considering that nearly 1 million Egyptians are working in Iraq.

A dramatic change in the position of the average Egyptian is expected if Israel participates directly in a Gulf war. In an interview with the Cairo paper AL-MUSAWWAR, however, Field Marshal 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah, assistant to the president, today ruled out an Iraqi-Israeli confrontation. He added that there will be no military escalation between Iraq and Israel unless Jordan allows Iraqi troops to enter its territory.

In this regard, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak today sent a new letter to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, warning him against any Israeli intervention in the Gulf crisis or any surprise attack on Arab territories. He termed Israel's attempts to interfere in the crisis as provocative. He added that these attempts might complicate the current situation, particularly at this critical time.

Under these cloudy circumstances, Cairo is persistently conducting behind-the-scenes efforts to postpone a military strike against Iraq. We have learned from informed Egyptian sources that contacts have been held among Egypt, the United States, Syria, and several European and Arab states, with a view to giving more time to the peace efforts being made with Iraq.

Premier Convenes Ministers' Meeting 17 Jan

NC1701114691 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1117 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has been following the developments step by step since the start of the war in the Gulf region. Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has stated that every minister is carrying out the tasks assigned to him by the Cabinet during its meeting two days ago with regard to securing the domestic front and services.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi held a meeting at his office this morning. The meeting was attended by Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi; Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and agriculture minister; Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister for Cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development; Dr. Ahmad Salamah, minister of the affairs of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council; Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs.

50 Iraqi Tanks Surrender to Egyptian Forces

NC1701134191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has telephoned the Egyptian forces command in Hafar al-Batin to inquire about its people.

General Yusuf Sabri, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, today sent a third cable to the Egyptian forces command in Hafar al-Batin conveying to them the greetings of President Mubarak, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and asserting to the Egyptian forces' commanders that the field of operations was in fact defined earlier.

It should be noted that Staff Major General Salah Halabi, commander of the Egyptian forces in Hafar al-Batin, had prior knowledge of the zero hour for today's air strike by allied forces against Iraq.

Fifty Iraqi tanks have surrendered and are on their way to the Egyptian forces' 4th division in Hafar al-Batin, which will receive them.

Maj. Gen. Halabi said that any Iraqi attempts to attack would be suicidal and would fail. He noted that more than 400 air sorties have been carried out so far against various strategic sites in Baghdad and have almost completely destroyed the Iraqi Air Force and the chemical and biological weapons factories. The raids also completely destroyed Saddam Husayn's Republican Guards, according to the latest reports.

Egyptian Forces in Saudi Arabia Said on Alert

NC1701061491 Cairo MENA in English 0545 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Hafar al-Batin, Jan 17 (MENA)—The multinational forces, including Egyptian troops, stationed in Hafar a-Batin, Saudi Arabia, were not exposed to any attack whatsoever, neither by rockets nor aircraft from the Iraqi side, in retaliation for the attack mounted by international coalition troops at dawn today, the military correspondent for MENA has said.

The correspondent said that, after blaring the air raid sirens in the region, the troops stationed in Hafar al-Batin took their positions in the trenches to avoid any expected attack.

He stressed that all the troops in the area are in a state of alert and full preparedness and are ready to execute any tasks assigned to them.

Al-Sharif Denies Troops Attacked by Iraqi Planes

NC1701133191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has denied reports by Arab and foreign news agencies to the effect that Iraqi fighter planes have attacked Egyptian troops' positions in Saudi Arabia.

The information minister pointed out that reports by certain news agencies, citing Iranian television, are completely groundless.

Comments on Cabinet Meeting

NC1701142491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—Following the meeting held by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi at his office today, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the meeting reviewed developments since the battles began in the Gulf region in implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations and the international community after Iraq had rejected all initiatives and appeals to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

He said that the Egyptian political leadership under President Husni Mubarak has done all it can to make the Iraqi president listen to the voice of reason and logic and to spare the Arab region and the entire world this war. He added that the last of President Mubarak's appeals to the Iraqi president was made on the night of 16 January. Mubarak asked him to respond to the peace appeals, but the Iraqi leadership persisted in its intransigence, causing the war to break out.

The information minister noted that there is still an opportunity before the Iraqi leadership to declare an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and restoration of legitimacy to it.

In response to a question, he said that Egypt is not involved in the military confrontation but has taken all necessary defensive and precautionary measures to confront any eventuality. He noted that Egypt's airports and ports are the only open points in the region now.

Safwat al-Sharif referred to President Mubarak's statement yesterday during his meeting with leaders of the political parties that Egypt's strategic reserves of basic commodities are ample and said that there is no need for Egyptian citizens to hoard any commodities.

The information minister concluded his statement by saying that the world is still willing to accept a response from the Iraqi president to the appeal of reason and logic, the implementation of resolutions passed by the United Nations and the Arab and Islamic conferences since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and the appeals addressed to the Iraqi president. These appeals included 26 from Egypt, including six oral messages and two written ones from President Mubarak, calling for a response to the appeal for peace, withdawal, and restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait.

The meeting lasted two hours and was attended by People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur.

Five U.S. Military Ships Transit Suez 17 Jan

NC1701144591 Cairo MENA in English 1430 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Port Said, Jan. 17 (MENA)—Five American military vessels transited the Suez Canal today from the Mediterranean on their way to the Gulf.

They included two American destroyers and three supply ships carrying war material.

Civil Aviation Official on Security Plans

NC1701121891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—Major General 'Ali Ziku, Civil Aviation Authority director, has stated that Cairo International Airport has a comprehensive security plan to guarantee the security of aircraft on land and in the air in case of possible plans for terrorist or subversive acts. In a statement today, the Authority director said: Constant coordination and contacts are made with the Armed Forces to respond to any request dictated by the security circumstances.

Maj. Gen Ziku stressed that Cairo airport is fully secured and that there is full control of Egyptian airspace. He pointed out that airport personnel have set up an operations room to formulate contingency plans at any moment. He explained that after the war started in the Gulf this morning, some aircraft that were in the airspace of the danger zones requested emergency landing at Cairo airport and were given permission to land. He added that all Egyptian airports are fully ready and prepared to receive any airplanes that ask to land.

The Civil Aviation Authority director said the airline companies that asked to cancel their flights did not do so out of fear, because Cairo airport is approximately 1,800 km away from the area of events, but because there were not enough passengers and because of the high insurance rates.

Abu-Ghazalah on Expected Scenario, Gulf Security

NC1601184291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—Assistant to the President Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah has asserted that the scenario of the expected war in the Gulf will begin with a surprise U.S. air strike to destroy the Iraqi air force, air defense, and launching pads on the ground and hence achieve supremacy in the air.

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR to be published Friday, 18 January, Abu-Ghazalah said the strike may take hours or days, depending on the planning and available data on targets in both Iraq and Kuwait. He added that the strike will be followed by successive air raids against specific Iraqi targets, primarily the command and control centers, various logistic centers, military factories, water and electricity plants, bridges, and main road networks to cut supply roads to the Iraqi troops in Kuwait.

Abu-Ghazalah added that it will be possible after that to mount raids on Iraqi ground troops using combat helicopters, artillery, and missiles.

Abu-Ghazalah said electronic technology will be employed from the very first moments of the battle to jam warning and air defense systems and obstruct the Iraqi Air Force as well as means of transport. This will make it considerably difficult for the Iraqi command to control the troops, he said.

On the security arrangements that can be made for the Gulf region after the crisis has been resolved, Abu-Ghazalah stressed that a new security system will have to be developed by setting up an Arab deterrent force, in which Egypt undertakes a major role, to avoid a recurrence of the present problem. He noted that Iran cannot be part of the security arrangements for the region.

In the interview, Abu-Ghazalah pointed out that the Iranian front might pose a threat to the Gulf region if the Iraqi Armed Forces are destroyed in the war, thus making it necessary to restore the balance in the region.

Abu-Ghazalah said the threat to pan-Arab security emanates primarily from the existing discord. He noted that any other threat can be handled through Arab unanimity.

Commander Says Troops Prepared for Chemical Gases

NC1601191991 Cairo MENA in English 1820 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Hafar al-Batin, Arabia, Jan. 16 (MENA)—War equipment continue to flow into Hafar al-Batin after the lapse of one day [as received] since the expiry of the UN Security Council dealine for the Iraqi pullout from Kuwait, MENA learned.

Colonel 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad, commander of the Egyptian forces here, said that his forces were prepared to confront chemical and biological gases and that their morale and combat capabilities were high.

As for the Iraqi front, no movements or any signs of withdrawal or launching military action have been monitored.

Egypt Air Plans Additional Flights to Gulf

NC1601164491 Cairo MENA in English 1610 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, Jan. 16 (MENA)—Egyptair agreed to operate additional flights to the Gulf area to transport the Egyptians who want to return home, Chairman of Egyptair Muhammad Fahim Rayyan said today.

Egyptair operated today four additional flights to Saudi Arabia to transport the Egyptians working there, he added.

Flights to Gulf Halted; Airspace Open

NC1701054591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0416 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—A responsible source from Egypt Air operations room at Cairo airport has stated that instructions were issued to halt all Egyptian flights heading for Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Dubai, Dhahran, Doha, and Riyadh. He said Egyptian airspace is open to any aircraft heading for the Gulf that wants to change course and land in Cairo airport.

Major General Rida 'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy interior minister and head of Cairo Airport security, said that the state of preparedness at Cairo Airport was raised and that security measures were intensified inside the airport and the surrounding areas. He also said cars going in and out of the airport are being searched thoroughly.

Libyan Military Delegation Arrives 16 Jan

NC1601191891 Cairo MENA in English 1818 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, Jan. 16 (MENA)—Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunus Jabir, member of the Libyan revolution command council and secretary of defense [title as received], arrived here today heading a military delegation on a few days' visit.

Yunus was welcomed at the airport by General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and military production and commander in chief of the armed forces.

Meets With Mubarak

NC1601212291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2012 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunus Jabir, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council and secretary of the defense committee, in the Presidential Palace this evening. General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production and general commander of the Armed Forces, also attended the meeting.

Mubarak Receives Call From Al-Qadhdhafi

NC1601153091 Cairo MENA in English 1440 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo Jan. 16 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received here today a telephone communication from leader of the Libyan revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The two leaders exchanged viewpoints on the latest developments in the area.

Jordan Agrees To Allow Egyptians To Cross Border

NC1301165791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—An agreement has been reached with the Jordanian Government by which Egyptians in the region will be allowed to cross the border from Iraq into Jordan. Moreover, the Egyptian Government will cover all transportation costs for their return to Egypt.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications is scheduled to arrange for their transportation to their local governorates.

10,000 Said Waiting To Leave Iraq

NC1601163691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Amman, 16 Jan (MENA)—According to eyewitnesses, approximately 10,000 Egyptian nationals are waiting on the Iraqi side of the Iraq-Jordan border for permission to cross into Jordan on their way back to Egypt.

Eyewitnesses have said that approximately 5,000 Egyptians are waiting at checkpoints on the Iraq-Jordan border. They are expected to cross within the next few hours.

Informed sources say an agreement has been reached between the Egyptian and Jordanian authorities to operate a land transport line to take Egyptians coming from Iraq and Kuwait back to Egypt via the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah and the Egyptian port of Nuwaybi'.

Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Muhab Muqbil had earlier met with Salamah Hammad, under secretary at the Jordanian Interior Ministry, and discussed ways to facilitate the transport home of Egyptians from Iraq and Kuwait according to specified programs to guarantee that no Egyptians will stay in Jordan. The Jordanians reiterated a willingness to cooperate and provide the necessary facilities in this connection. [passage omitted]

Returnees' Committees Set Up

NC1601192491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—Manpower and Training Minister 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq has decided to entrust the directorates of manpower and training in the Governorates of South Sinai, the Red Sea, Alexandria, Suez, and Cairo with the task of forming working groups to receive those returning from Jordan and Iraq at the entry points in the governorates.

An official at the Ministry of Manpower and Training said that the working groups were instructed to remain at the entry points, to work there around the clock to follow and account for the returning manpower, and to inform the main operations center at the manpower minister's office of their figures. This room is in continuous session.

The official expected the Egyptians to return via the ports of Sharm al-Shaykh, Nuwaybi', and Safajah.

Sudanese Leader's Support for Saddam Criticized

JN1601103791 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Jan 91 p 10

["Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] Brother 'Umar al-Bashir, leader of the so-called National Salvation Revolution in Sudan, yesterday announced his support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in his just struggle!! What kind of just struggle does al-Bashir mean? Is it a struggle to draw the Arab and Islamic nations into a useless battle, or is it a struggle to plunder and usurp the lives and properties of a fraternal people and violate the sanctities of their sons?

Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir claims that he defends Islam and protects its principles. Do Islamic principles encourage bloodshed and incite people to attack their own brothers and abandon human ethics and values? Is not the opposite true?

The leader of the so-called National Salvation Revolution in Sudan involved himself from the first moment when he took the wrong course along with Saddam Husayn. However, national and pan-Arab responsibility should have made him correct his position, especially since it has become clear to every one that Saddam does not give a damn about heavenly laws or international charters and norms.

Al-Bashir might have had his own excuses at the beginning, when al-Tikriti [Saddam Husayn] covered the ground with roses and promised to share the wealth with him. The economic, political, and social circumstances of al-Bashir's country are in fact very bad. Several days ago I met a number of our Sudanese brothers. They swore that the overwhelming majority of the citizens there have not eaten

meat for the past six months. Moreover, the currency black market, which al-Bashir vowed to destroy, is worse after the government lost its dignity, and whose presence is no longer felt either inside or outside Sudan.

I said that al-Bashir had his own excuse at the beginning. But now, what makes him participate in a gamble from which he will gain nothing? Saddam has nothing to offer and there is no overwhelming victory awaiting him, as he imagines, whether the crisis is resolved peacefully or through war. Iraq's treasury is empty and state revenues are nil, while expenditures are high and cannot be met. Therefore, al-Bashir's support for Saddam will further increase his poverty and despair.

Regrettably, it is arrogance without reason and unlimited tyranny as long as the people are ruled by force, mouths remain shut, and those who freely express their views are punished with death by the guillotine of al-Bashir.

The Egyptian people greet President Husni Mubarak, who refused to hold a dialogue with Lt. Gen. al-Bashir when he sat at the same table with him in the Libyan city of Misratah last week.

All the world knows that President Mubarak does not show respect for those who do not deserve it and that every ingratitude and every sinful aggressor who encroaches on freedom, democracy, and the welfare of the masses will have no place in our hearts that are filled with goodness, love, peace, justice, and respect for human rights.

Officers Said Pensioned for Opposing Aggression

NC1201084991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (INA)—Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have stated that a number of high-ranking Egyptian Army officers have told the head of their regime Husni [Mubarak] during a meeting with him that the goal of the Egyptian Army units who went to the Gulf is to defend "Saudi Arabia" and not to commit aggression against Iraq.

According to the sources, these views were expressed in front of U.S. Defense Secretary [Richard] Cheney during his recent visit to Egypt. The U.S. secretary was annoyed and he left Egypt dissatisfied.

Accordingly, the Egyptian authorities investigated these officers and pensioned off a number of them.

Cairo, Tehran Said Agreed on Relations, Air Links

PM1601164191 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 15 Jan 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Resumption of Egypt-Iran Ties"]

[Text] Cairo—SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned that Cairo and Tehran have agreed to restore diplomatic relations between them in the next few weeks and that the contacts and efforts made by Syria have produced positive results. Agreement has also been reached on the draft statement to be issued by the foreign ministries of both countries. Flights between the two countries are expected to be resumed sometime next week.

Mauritania

Cabinet Meets, Expresses Hope for Peace in Gulf

AB1701084191 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Excerpts] The cabinet met yesterday, 16 January 1991, under the chairmanship of Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee of National Salvation and head of state. [passage omitted] The acting minister of foreign affairs and cooperation took stock of the situation prevailing in the Gulf and said that despite the deadlock in the negotiations, Mauritania still believes that wisdom and reason will prevail to avoid a catastrophic war with incalculable consequences. The Council of Ministers, while regretting the current situation, is still hopeful and is hereby asking the international community and all states to pursue and intensify their efforts at all levels in order to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis.

The minister also recalled the cowardly assassination of the leaders of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, brothers Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid], and Abu Muhammad Fakhri al-'Umari and hailed the important role they played in the Palestinian movement. The cabinet condemned these murders which should not, in any case, weaken the Palestinian resistance.

The minister of interior, posts, and telecommunications presented a report on the internal situation. [passage omitted]

The Ministry of Education last night published the following communique :

Due to the current situation, all primary, secondary, and higher education institutions will be closed throughout the national territory from Thursday, 17 January 1991 at 0800, until Wednesday, 23 January 1991 at 0800.

Foreigners Urged To Seek Refuge in Embassies

AB1701082191 Paris AFP in French 0310 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 17 Jan (AFP)—Foreign nationals in Mauritania, "who might be the targets of exaction" because of the Gulf war, have been asked to seek refuge in their respective embassies where the forces of law and order can more adequately protect them, it was learned here this morning. According to diplomatic sources in

Nouakchott, the Mauritanian authorities said television was effective right after the outbreak of the conflict.

France is the European country with the largest community in Mauritania—12,000. They started assembling at the French Embassy in Nouakchott at about 0100 GMT, shortly after the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf, it was learned from French sources. French families, who have started arriving at the embassy, may stay there "for some time," according to these French sources in the Mauritanian capital. They will be able to return to their homes as soon as the situation becomes somewhat "normal," according to the same source.

On Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday [15 January], demonstrations for peace in the Gulf and in support for Iraq were staged in Nouakchott, but according to observers, there were no such demonstrations yesterday. Mauritania, a close ally of Iraq, had officially condemned both the invasion of Kuwait and the presence of foreign troops in the holy land of Islam.

Government Appeals to 'Avert the Worst'

AB1601213291 Paris AFP in French 2053 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 16 Jan (AFP)—The Mauritanian Government today launched an appeal to the international community to intensify its efforts to "avert the worst" in the Gulf region, it was learned from official sources in Nouakchott. "As a result of and in spite of the situation, the Mauritanian Government does not despair," it was indicated in the government statement.

Moreover, the government has announced the closing of all schools—primary, secondary, and higher institutions of learning—effective 17 January until 23 January "in view of the situation," it was also learned from official sources.

High school and university students had demonstrated over the past three days in Nouakchott for peace in the Gulf. During these demonstrations, pro-Iraqi slogans had been heard while some demonstrators carried portraits of Saddam Husayn. The situation has been under the control of Mauritanian security forces, and no demonstrations were reported today.

Two Iraqi Aircraft Park at Nouakchott Airport

AB1601211491 Paris AFP in French 1850 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Dakar, 16 Jan (AFP)—Two Boeing 707 aircraft which belong to Iraqi Airways arrived at the Nouakchott International Airport this morning, according to witnesses contacted by telephone from Dakar. The two civil aircraft have parked at the Nouakchott Airport for all passengers using the airport to see, according to the same sources. No activity was observed near the planes. According to diplomatic sources contacted in Nouakchott, these could be aircraft that the Iraqi National Airlines wants to keep away from any eventual bombings in case a conflict flares up in the Gulf.

Nonetheless, Mauritania, which is rather pro-Iraqi, had condemned Kuwait's annexation by Baghdad. Nouakchott and Baghdad have very close relations even though the Embassies of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Mauritania's two major financial backers, continue to function normally in Nouakchott.

Sudan

British Foreign Office Withdraws Diplomats

EA1601170691 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] The British Foreign Office has withdrawn all its diplomats from the British Embassy in Khartoum leaving only nine people there. The British Government has also issued a decree stopping all economic assistance to Sudan, including a loan worth $61 million which was to be given to the Khartoum Government.

It has closed and withdrawn all its officials from the British Development Agency in Sudan, which supervises a number of projects and British aid in Sudan. The British Government has withdrawn all its nationals working in the British Council in Khartoum, leaving only the Sudanese local staff. These developments come after the recent deterioration in relations between Britain and the Front's military government.

Al-Bashir Condemns Murder of PLO 'Strugglers'

AB1601204291 Khartoum SUNA in French 0925 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Jan (SUNA)—General [title as received] 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, NSRCC, has condemned the assassination of the three Palestinian strugglers, namely Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid], and Abu Muhammad Fakhri al-'Umari, in a message which he sent to Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian state. Gen. al-Bashir describes the assassination of the three men as an aggressive act against the Palestinian issue and against the Arabs.

Foreign Ministry Names Three New Ambassadors

EA1501200691 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Summary] Khartoum, 14 Jan (SUNA)—Sudanese Foreign Ministry officials report that the Swedish Government has agreed to the nomination of Muhammad Zayn al-Abidin as Sudanese ambassador to Sweden, resident in Stockholm. The Maltese Government has accepted the nomination of Abbas Ibrahim al-Nur as Sudanese ambassador to Malta, resident in Tripoli. Awad Karim Fadlallah has presented his credentials to Pope John Paul as Sudanese ambassador to the Vatican, resident in Paris.

Tunisia

Premier Reaffirms Stance on Gulf Crisis

LD1501105891 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Hamed Karaoui, vice president of the Democratic Constitutional Rally [RCD] and prime minister, has reiterated that Tunisia's position on a Gulf crisis, as most clearly and frankly expressed by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in his statement on 11 August 1990, remains the constant and principled and unambiguous stand from which we will not waver. He added that this statement will remain the beacon and the guide that steers our country in all its good endeavors and moves.

Speaking at the joint meeting held yesterday by members of the Chamber of Deputies and members of the Central Committee of the RCD in the presence of members of the Political Bureau and the government, Karaoui affirmed that while adhering to legitimacy and international charters, Tunisia adheres to the principle of the application of this legitimacy to all parties without exception for failing.

He pointed out that since the breakout of the Gulf crisis, the leadership of the new regime has pursued a policy of clarity and openness and that it has addressed all parties with the same language, its sole aim in this being to serve the causes of peace and security and to keep away the specter of war and devastation.

He added that while upholding all noble values, Tunisia has pursued a policy aimed at preserving the capabilities of the Arab nation and at working for conserving its capablities and potentials.

Hamed Karaoui said that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has made it a point from the very beginning to avoid the shattering of the Arab ranks and to contain the differences within the Arab house and to settle the crisis without foreign intervention. He pointed out that the only remaining course for averting catastrophe lies in the organization of an international peace conference by the UN Security Council.

In conclusion, Karaoui said that history will record for President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali his total commitment to the interests of the Arab nation away from narrow considerations and his care for serving the causes of justice and right and his work for avoiding the disruption of peace and security in the world.

Members of the Central Committee and the Chamber of Deputies note with pride the soundness of the Tunisian vision which was proven right and correct by the development of events. The conferees reaffirmed the continued rally of all the democratic progressive forces headed by the RCD around President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the one national stand as defined by the head of state in his speech of 11 August 1990, and denounced the cacophony of extremist currents that deviate from this unanimity and work in these practical moments in the life of our people and nation to sow the seeds of sedition and divert the attention of the popular masses away from the colossal dangers threatening the destiny of the entire nation.

Members of the Central Committee and the Chamber of Deputies affirmed their active solidarity with the fraternal Arab peoples and their belief in the inevitability of a just peace which will accomplish the aspirations of our generations in unity, strength, and glory.

Cabinet Calls for UN To End 'Killing' in Gulf

LD1701101491 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0845 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] This morning at 0730 President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali chaired, at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage, an emergency meeting of the cabinet to study the latest developments in the Gulf region in the wake of the outbreak of war. The cabinet issued the following statement:

The Tunisian Government received with utmost concern and dismay the news of the outbreak of war in the Gulf region. Tunisia, which is loyal to the principles of dialogue and the resolution of issues by peaceful means, expresses its pain over the catastrophe being witnessed by the Arab homeland and its sorrow over what the sisterly peoples of Iraq and Kuwait are being exposed to. It recalls its appeals and intense efforts since the beginning of the crisis for the Iraqi forces to withdraw, for the resolution of the conflict by peaceful means and within an Arab framework, and for the avoidance of the internationalization and complication of the issue. Out of loyalty to the principles to which it has always adhered, and in order to preserve international peace and Arab capabilities, Tunisia appeals to the international conscience and urgently calls upon the Security Council to take immediate and decisive measures to put an end to the killing that is taking place and to resolve the conflict by peaceful means in accordance with international legality.

Paris Radio Reports 'Nervousness' in Capital

LD1701013291 Paris Domestic Service in French 0115 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] I suggest we link up with Tunis. There seems a certain amount of nervousness in the Tunisian capital, Mathieu Aron?

[Aron] A great deal of nervousness, particularly on the part of police. As soon as I heard the news of the start of hostilities I wanted to leave my hotel to go and gather the reactions of Tunisians in the streets. I had only taken a few steps when three policemen in civilian clothes grabbed the Radio France technician who was with me. We had to show our papers, it was impossible to go any further, and we had to return to the hotel. Twenty four

hours ago the very same thing had happened to us. We then had to spend more than two hours at a police station.

Tunisian internal security forces were placed on alert 24 hours ago, as you know. You must know that here there are no outside threats, only internal threats. There is fear that there may be disturbances among the population and spontaneous demonstrations. This is what the government fears most. That said, there are not many people in the streets at this time, mainly police in civilian clothes doing the rounds.

Radio Comments on Outbreak of Gulf War

LD1701085291 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Dear Listeners. Contrary to our usual procedure, our bulletin today will be an improvised one. It will be based on our thoughts and recollections after following the western military offensive against fraternal Iraq for the past long hours.

The offensive began at 0100 Tunis time. [passage omitted] We, as well as you, have suffered much over the past six hours because of conflicting reports, particularly because the news has been restricted to one source affiliated with a side, whose news we cannot trust completely and had to accept cautiously because it is the side that launched the aggression against fraternal Iraq. The American TV networks and information media were the only source we had to rely on.

We have suffered from the conflict because we would get a report and after three, five, or six minutes we would get a news report refuting the earlier news report, as was the case with the report on the firing of Iraqi SCUD missiles at Saudi Arabia and the conflicting reports that followed.

The same applies to Iraqi radio, which we have not been able to hear because of the jamming that has been directed against it and against other radio and telecommunications facilities for about 2 days from Saudi territory. The reports said that Iraqi radio was among the establishments attacked in Baghdad and that it was destroyed. We almost believed it because we were unable to receive it. The news also said that Baghdad was living under a dense cloud of smoke and darkness. The reports also said that everything there was gloomy and profoundly sad. But thanks be to God, other reports came to please and comfort us after the pain we had suffered. These reports affirmed that life in Baghdad has been normal since early morning. [passage omitted]

Then came reports to affirm that Iraq was standing fast in the face of aggression and to raise hopes, since much of the reaction had denounced the operation, though matters moved to an explosive stage rather than seeking a course of peace.

The UN Security Council has been meeting in consultations behind closed doors for one hour. We hope that these consultations will lead to an initiative for a ceasefire, to give peace a new chance, and not to the despair of man so that mankind will not destroy itself.

In these crucial moments for the entire human race—and not for Iraq alone, or the Gulf or the Middle East alone, and not for the Arab nation that follows these events with the hope that reason will triumph in the end—we feel that the UN Security Council has before it an opportunity we hope it will seize. This opportunity is represented by the plan put forward by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali that Tunisia submitted to the UN Security Council two days ago. [passage omitted]

President Ben Ali has been following events. How did Tunisia experience the event? We have lived together through the microphone, radio, and dispatches. President Ben Ali followed events with us closely. He has instructed senior officials, ministers, and directors to assume their responsibilities in pursuing these events and looking for new developments.

In 19 minutes, at 0730, an extraordinary cabinet meeting will be held at the Republican Palace in Carthage under the chairmanship of President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali to discuss the latest developments in the situation and to act upon these events.

Tunisia is acting upon these events. Tunisia is hoping that reason will prevail, that the logic of war will be defeated, and that peace will prevail.

Dear listeners and brothers. Together we will follow developments in these events. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Habib Boulares Visit to France

WA1701131491

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister Habib Boulares, including reports on his talks with Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, please see the France section of the 14 January West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Bahrain

Council of Ministers Briefed on Situation

NC1701100891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, 17 Jan (WAKH)—In an emergency session held this morning by the prime minister, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini Council of Ministers reviewed the current situation considering the beginning of military operations against Iraq to liberate Kuwait, restore legitimacy, and implement the UN Security Council resolutions. The Council heard a detailed report from the ministers of foreign affairs and defense on the initial assessment of the political and military consequences resulting from the start of the fighting.

The prime minister urged the interior minister and head of the committee entrusted with protecting individuals and sites to submit a report on the conditions and the arrangements that were taken in case of emergency. The Council was assured that all arrangements and precautionary plans to guarantee the safety and welfare of citizens and provide the necessary services for them were taken.

The Council also heard a report from the ministers of trade and agriculture on supply conditions and the availability of foodstuffs for citizens. The prime minister charged the trade minister with taking immediate legal steps against anyone who raises the price of goods and foodstuffs or seeks to make illegal profit by taking advantage of the current extraordinary circumstances.

Assassination of PLO Officials Condemned

NC1601114591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, 16 Jan (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain today declared its condemnation of the assassination of Salah Khalaf and his two colleague members of Fatah Central Committee [as received] in Tunis.

A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry stressed that this sinful terrorist act will not obstruct the march of the Palestinian people, but will only increase its faith in the justice of the Palestinian cause and its determination to attain its legitimate rights in full independence on its national soil.

Kuwait

Minister Rejects Partial Withdrawal, Urges Peace

PM1601143391 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jan 91 p 6

[Interview with Shaykh Jabir al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of labor and social affairs, by Walid Najm in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Najm] Let us discuss the details of the crisis. The outcome of the situation is unknown, especially as Iraq is refusing to withdraw and is defying the world's will and resolutions. How do you view the situation?

[Al-Sabah] Undoubtedly all seek peace, and nobody wants war because it will destroy the region. We pray to God that the region will not regress 10 years if a war breaks out.

We demand that the solution be a peaceful one and that there be an understanding among all parties at the level of brotherhood and talks. The use of force results only in evil consequences and destruction for all. We appreciate the world's support for Kuwait's rights and its rejection of the Iraqi occupation, especially with regard to our brothers in the Arabian Gulf, Syria, and Egypt. We pray to God once again to make peace the road to the future, so that the region will not be destroyed.

[Najm] It is noted that Iraq continues to insist on and cling to the occupation. Not a single gesture of peace has emanated from it to date. It has also raised the question of linking withdrawal from Kuwait with Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories. In your view, what linkage is there between the two questions? Why did Iraq raise that issue?

[Al-Sabah] I believe that that proposal is not serious, and the objective is to gain time, procrastinate over withdrawal, and try to influence Arab public opinion. Since when has Kuwait been something for him to use to bargain over the occupied Palestinian territories? If Saddam had occupied part of Israel, it would have been a different matter!

Saddam Husayn's linking of the Palestinian issue and the Kuwait issue is merely an attempt to dilute the Kuwait issue and gain time, that's all.

[Najm] What position would the Kuwaiti Government take if a partial Iraqi withdrawal took place?

[Al-Sabah] We—the people and government—say: No forfeiture of a single inch of Kuwait's territory. The international community's resolutions are clear: total and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwaiti territory and the restoration of the legitimate government there.

[Najm] Do you expect a surprise before the international ultimatum to Iraq expires on 15 January?

[Al-Sabah] We do not expect a surprise, but we do hope that a peaceful solution to the crisis will prevail and that Iraq will withdraw from Kuwait, thus sparing its people, its Army, and the Arab people the danger of war and destruction. [passage omitted]

Government Reiterates Call For Iraqi Withdrawal

LD1601151391 London KUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 16 Jan—The Kuwaiti Government today denounced Iraq's refusal to withdraw from Kuwait despite the expiry of the deadline set by the UN Security Council for this at 0500 GMT today.

A Kuwaiti Government responsible source has stated that the Iraqi regime has not taken "any action that would imply that it is ready to submit to the will of the international community."

The source asked the Iraqi forces "to withdraw from all the Kuwaiti territory and to implement and other related UN Security Council resolutions."

Minister Comments on Post-Liberation Scenario

Says Return Will Be 'Organized'

LD1601210691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1852 GMT 16 Jan 91

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message"]

[Text] Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub, minister of information and minister of state for national council affairs, has made a statement regarding rumors that citizens will not be permitted to enter Kuwait immediately after its liberation.

The minister of information and minister of state for national council affairs affirmed that all Kuwaiti citizens will be able to enter their beloved country, Kuwait, after it is liberated soon—God willing—and as quickly as they expect. However, vigilance and caution dictate that Kuwait should be cleansed from all the consequences and desecration of the aggression, so that security, stability, and assurance for all the dear citizens can be guaranteed in accordance with the aspirations of all of us.

The operation of entering Kuwait—God willing—will be organized in a manner compatible with the public interest. All the particular details concerning the return will be announced in due course. What is important at this stage is that everyone should intensify efforts and act as on in order to eliminate every contentious rumor aiming at spreading insecurity among the citizens.

Minister al-Ya'qub also affirmed the Kuwaiti government's concern to provide all the means and facilities for a secure return to the beloved homeland.

Thanks War Participants

LD1701063191 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0540 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Kuwaiti Information Minister Dr. Badr Qasim al-Ya'qub thanked the sons of Kuwait, the international community, and all the fraternal and friendly countries who participated in the operation of liberating Kuwait. In a speech addressed from Kuwait Radio [not further identified], Dr. al-Ya'qub pointed out that the operation was the only way to end the occupation and liberate Kuwait after the Iraqi system had blocked every other means by its intransigence and rejection of international resolutions.

Heir Apparent Discusses Liberation Operation

NC1701065491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0550 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 17 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, has addressed the Kuwaiti people inside Kuwait on the occasion of the beginning of the operation to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. Following is the text of the address as carried by KUNA [KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY]:

Brothers and sisters, sons of our noble people who are standing fast on the pure soil of beloved Kuwait and who are sacrificing your lives for its sake. God's peace be upon you:

We are all witnessing crucial, decisive moments which are crowning our legitimate struggle to liberate our dear homeland from the evil Iraqi regime's occupation and to kick out the aggressive invaders. The entire world is also witnessing historic moments which will decide between the triumph of right and justice and the defeat of evil and aggression. Nay, we hurl truth against falsehood, and it knocks out its brain, and behold, falsehood doth perish. [Koranic verse]

Shaykh Sa'd added: At those critical hours when the attention of the whole world is pinned on our region and our beloved Kuwait, our hearts long for you. We stand with you with our hearts and feelings and with our mind and conscience day and night. We feel sad when you are sad; we are pained when you are in pain, and we are worried and concerned for the suffering of our dear prisoners, both the civilians and heroic military. We are full of pride when we follow the news of your valiance and steadfastness.

His highness the Kuwaiti heir apparent added: We extend greetings to you from afar. We press on your hands and beseech God to protect you and make us meet with you on the land of our beloved Kuwait soon.

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah added: Brothers and sisters in our beloved homeland, since the beginning of the tyrannical Iraqi occupation you have been the faithful sons for our dear mother, Kuwait. You have given all that is dear and offered your lives to sacrifice it. With your steadfastness and refusal to submit to the aggressive tyrants, you have registered immortal pages of glory and pride and given the entire world glorious examples in courage, valor, and chivalry, even in the darkest hours of danger.

Brothers and sisters, you are stronger than all occupation armies because you are defending your land, country, and

dignity, and because they are aggressive, evil invaders moved by illegitimate desires and led by evil trends.

Brothers and sisters. Valiant people of Kuwait. The sinful Iraqi regime insists on its oppression, tyranny, and aggression and on continuing its treacherous occupation of our dear homeland, refusing to submit to the international community's will, ignoring all the appeals for peace and staunching bloodshed, and unconcerned about the tragedies, destruction, and death war would bring to his country and people as well as to the other countries and peoples.

The people of Kuwait have always been advocates of peace and amity. They have never been advocates of war or aggression. If the treacherous Iraqi regime insists on continuing its aggression against and occupation of our dear homeland and rendering our peaceable people homeless, however, all of us will have to defend our legitimate right to liberate our homeland and regain our land irrespective of the sacrifices we have to make, relying on God and remembering the divine saying: Fighting is prescribed for you, and you dislike it. But it is possible that you dislike a thing which is good for you and that you love a thing which is bad for you. [Koranic verse]

Brothers and sisters. In these decisive moments, it behooves us to register our profound gratitude and thanks to all the brothers and friends who have supported us, stood on our side and rose to uphold what is right and defeat falsehood. In the name of all of you, we express our appreciation and gratitude.

Brothers and sisters in our dear homeland: The sun of liberation shall rise soon, the hour of salvation from the criminal tyrants has struck, and the harbingers of our meeting on the land of the dear homeland are looming on the near horizon. So lose no heart, nor fall into despair; for you must gain victory, [Koranic verse] God willing. Kuwait will be restored, free, honorable, and independent, God willing. It will regain its complete sovereignty and our flag shall flutter high over its land and sea and in its sky, and the aggessive invaders will get out of it dismayed.

The Kuwaiti people will meet on Kuwait's freed land, victorious and winning, God willing. We shall all begin its reconstruction and rebuilding of its cultural edifice, working, as we have always done, as loving and cooperating brothers under the command of the guardian of our renaissance, his highness the amir of the country, may God protect him.

On that day shall the believers rejoice with the help of God. He helps whom he will, and he is exalted in might, most merciful. [Koranic verse] May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Council of Ministers Stresses War 'Legitimacy'

NC1701102391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 17 Jan (MENA)—The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers has expressed appreciation and gratitude to all sisterly and friendly countries that have taken part and are still taking part in the operation to liberate Kuwait.

In a statement issued following a meeting held this morning under Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the Council stressed the legitimacy of and need for this war to liberate Kuwait and establish the principle of international legitimacy through the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and the respect of law.

The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers pointed out that the whole world had exhausted all means to achieve a peaceful withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Defense Minister Reports 'Successful' Attack

NC1701110591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1040 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Jeddah, 17 Jan (WAKH)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad has stated that a squadron of Kuwaiti fighters today succeeded in destroying a number of Iraqi military positions inside Kuwait and returned safely to base.

In a statement to the KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY, he added that the leader of the squadron, which comprises 12 aircraft, informed him personally of the squadron members' successful mission. He pointed out that the other sectors of the Kuwaiti forces are standing ready to contribute to the liberation once they receive orders from the forces' joint command.

In another development, Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad said shooting broke out this morning among Iraqi troops in Kuwait while they were trying to escape.

Qatar

Foreign Ministry Source on Military Operations

NC1701113491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1055 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Doha, 17 Jan (WAKH)—A responsible source at the Qatari Foreign Ministry has told the QATARI NEWS AGENCY that, after all efforts were exhausted and after all initiatives and appeals to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to respond to Arab, Islamic, and UN Security Council resolutions—which called for the unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi occupation troops from Kuwait and the reinstatement of legitimacy under its amir, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah—and because the Iraqi president insisted on his intransigence in all those efforts and initiatives, and

rejected international legitimacy when he could have averted the worst and the battles and spare bloodshed, military operations to liberate the State of Kuwait began at dawn today in implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, which the State of Qatar supports.

Aviation Official Says Doha Airport 'Open'

NC1701105891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Doha, 17 Jan (MENA)—An official source at the Civil Aviation Department of the State of Qatar has disclosed that the Doha International Airport is still operating and open, but noted that civilian traffic has been temporarily halted because of the current hostilities in the region.

The source told the QATARI NEWS AGENCY that so far there are no plans to close down the airport.

Cabinet Condemns PLO Leaders Assassination

NC1601162591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Doha, 16 Jan (WAKH)—The Qatari cabinet has condemned the assassination that claimed the lives of three Palestinian officials in Tunis the day before yesterday.

In its weekly meeting chaired by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, the cabinet expressed absolute conviction that this abominable criminal act will not undermine the fraternal Palestinian people's resolve nor weaken their determination to continue their just and legitimate struggle to end the despicable Israeli occupation and attain their legitimate rights, particularly their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

The cabinet reiterated Qatar's firm support of the Palestinian issue and its full backing for the Palestinian people until they achieve their noble goals.

Beginning the session, the cabinet members first reviewed preparations by ministries and competent government departments to face any development resulting from the current circumstances arising from the Gulf crisis.

The cabinet expressed full satisfaction with the arrangements and precautionary measures taken to face any emergency, thus ensuring that the needs of citizens and residents in the security, [word indistinct], supply, and other fields are met.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Tehran Visit

NC1601081291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0755 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Doha, 16 Jan (WAKH)—Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir left here this morning for Tehran on a visit that will last for a few days. The QATARI NEWS AGENCY, which carried this news, did not give any details about the mission of the Qatari minister in Tehran.

Saudi Arabia

Riyadh Reports on 'Liberation' of Kuwait

LD1701021191 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0144 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] A responsible Saudi source announced today at dawn that the operation for the liberation of Kuwait started at 2:50 a.m. today, Thursday, 17 January 1991.

Because all the efforts, initiatives, and appeals addressed to the ruler of Iraq, Saddam Husayn, until the last moment of the specified time for the withdrawal of Iraqi Forces from Kuwait, which was 15 January, and due to what happened after that until today at dawn, and because President Saddam Husayn has insistently rejected all efforts, attempts and appeals, and rejected international legitimacy while he was able to avoid these battles and spare blood, military operations for the liberation of the State of Kuwait commenced today at dawn. This was undertaken in implementation of the Arab and Islamic resolutions and the resolutions of the UN Security Council, which specified the necessity of the invading Iraqi Forces' withdrawal from Kuwaiti territories without conditions and the restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait.

Victory comes only from God. God is supreme and wise.

'Source' Denies Reported Riyadh Missile Strike

LD1701045191 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0346 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] A responsible source of the joint command has now stated to SPA [SAUDI PRESS AGENCY] that what CNN reported this morning about a rocket hitting Riyadh is completely unfounded on the whole and in its details.

Defense Ministry Appeals for Trucks, Drivers

LD1701120191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1112 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Defense and Aviation and the Inspectorate General has issued the following announcement:

The Ministry of Defense and Aviation and the Inspectorate General urge citizens who own trucks or who employ drivers to contact the following military regions: Riyadh, the Joint Forces Supplies and Procurement; the northern region command in Hafr al-Batin; the northwestern region command in Tabuk; the air defense detachment in Ha'il; and the technical institute in Al-Qasim.

The Ministry of Defense and Aviation has expressed its wish to sign contracts with drivers who hold public licenses. [passage omitted]

Interior Ministry Warns on Disturbances

LD1701122891 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1043 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] A responsible source at the Interior Ministry made a statement to SPA [SAUDI PRESS AGENCY] in which he said: The Interior Ministry would like to announce its directives to all those residents in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from the various Arab and Islamic states and the friendly states—to whom the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made available all means of security and peace, and means of a dignified life in a climate of security and stability offered by the Kingdom—these residents should continue to work regularly in their jobs in various government and private sectors.

The source further said: Given the delicate circumstances currently experienced by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Interior Ministry hopes that it will be clear to all that anyone committing a violation, infringement, or any disturbance, whatever his position, will be laid open for the most severe punishments provided for by the Islamic shari'a [law], in accordance with the contents of the Book of God and the tradition set by His Prophet, including the Koranic verse on war which says: This is the recompense of fight against God and his messenger, and hasten about the Earth, to do corruption there: they shall be slaughtered, or crucified, or their hands and feet shall alternately be struck off, or they shall be banished from the land. God says the truth.

The source concluded its statement by saying: The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has several times announced that it will show absolutely no leniency toward anyone trying to breach the security of the country, and it will not hesitate one moment to inflict the deterrent punishment on him. We pray to God to spare this country, its population, and those residing in it, any mishap, and to protect them against any harm.

Civil Airports Closed; Flights Diverted to Egypt

NC1701014291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0130 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—The civil aviation authorities received a cable from the Saudi authorities early today. The cable indicates that the Saudi civil airports have been closed to traffic and that all airplanes that were heading toward Saudi Arabia have been diverted to Egyptian airports.

United Arab Emirates

Foreign Ministry Condemns PLO Leaders' Deaths

NC1601160691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1350 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Jan (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has denounced the assassination of the three Palestinian leaders, Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad; Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, also known as Abu-al-Hawl; and Fakhri al-'Umari.

A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has said that, while denouncing this ugly crime and condemning the sinful hands behind it, the UAE asserts its opposition to all acts of terrorism. The UAE also prays to God Almighty to grant their families and the Palestinian people patience and solace.

Yemen

Government Offers Condolences to PLO

AB1601191691 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] On instructions from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, the minister of state for foreign affairs, together with brother Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Hajri, deputy minister of justice, has paid a visit to the embassy of the state of Palestine in Sanaa to offer condolences to the fraternal Arab Palestinian people and their leadership on the martyrdom in the Tunisian capital at the hand of treachery and betrayal of the strugglers Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, alias Abu-al-Hawl, and Abu-Muhammad Fakri al-'Umari Brother Dr. al-Dali stressed that this would not weaken the Arab-Muslim nation at this critical moment in their history or its struggle for rightness, justice, peace, and the liberation of the occupied Arab land.

Radio Says U.S., Europe Bring War to Region

EA1601215691 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1845 GMT 16 Jan 91

[From the "Direct News Period" by Husayn Alawi Muhsin—read by Muhammad Munadham]

[Text] The people of this hot region and the world's public opinion have lived since 0800 today in a state of anxiety and apprehension that all of a sudden the military situation and armed confrontation may break out, because the 15 January deadline expired. This was seen as the last day for the peace option making a military option the only alternative.

The situation is at a standstill, while apprehension and anxiety rule the day. Now the talk is about the explosion of the situation within a few hours or days. The talk of a

peace option has receded to be replaced by the news of more American and Western armaments ammassed to the region, the news of tactics which will be implemented in the anticipated battle, and the news of massive forces mobilized, particularly those inimical to Iraq. All these flow within the stream of a psychological war which precedes the actual war. The United States and some of its European allies worked to bring this to the region by rejecting the initiatives proposed to solve the crisis, because those initiatives linked the crisis with other problems of the region, particularly the Palestinian issue.

Some of the Western quarters, particularly through the media, have gone so far in their dreams to imply the outcome of the war looming on the horizon—on Iraq and its future. Talk has begun on what is called the end of the state of Iraq, its division after the war, and establishing statelets separated from it. All this demonstrates the concealed intentions for the war and the intention to destroy Iraqi military power. This is what the Zionist entity has demanded, even in the event of finding a peaceful solution to the region's crisis.

Upcoming events, whether war breaks out or not, will demonstrate the truth of the matter and will expose the lies of those who claim that they are working for peace and those who make illogical pretexts to set ablaze the fuse of war in an area which is thousands of miles away from their countries and whose policy depends on the logic of force and the support of any aggressive act initiated by their allies by giving it excuses and protection in international gatherings.

World public thinking, which follows the course of events, expresses its opinion and its position of rejecting the war through processions that engulf most of the world capitals. Its voice rises up day after day [words indistinct] voice of peace. This should outweigh the voice of arms. The world will definitely be filled with demonstrations and peaceful protests and also by violent acts if the war fuse is lit, particularly in the Western countries participating in this war that is not desired internationally. The coming days will stand witness.

Developments Reported After Outbreak of War

Saddam Message to President Bush

NC1701080091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0726 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Letter from President Saddam Husayn to "Bush," "written on the morning of 16 January 1991 and revised by the Revolution Command Council during an evening meeting on 16 January 1991;" read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: From Saddam Husayn to Bush, enemy of God and colleague of the devil. The glorious Iraqi people and I have listened thoroughly to your hysterical statements threatening terrible consequences for Iraq and threatening aggression and destruction if Iraq fails to comply with your terms of capitulation. Accursed be you and hopeless are your objectives. You liked this method of address, and you admired this arrogant style in addressing our people and nation after you put God behind you and took the devil as your colleague. Perhaps the devil and the money spent by Fahd and the other treacherous Gulf rulers have become your masters.

It seems that because you give priority to propaganda and psychological warfare before the battle begins, you have unleashed yourself and began to make more threats to the great Iraqi people, thinking that by this method you will be able to intimidate the faithful, steadfast, and militant [mujahid] people and their valiant Armed Forces. No one has advised you, or you have not heeded the advice of anyone of those who know the history and heritage of the Iraqi people and the nation, because if you had known enough of the history of the people and nation and the depth of the heritage that constitutes the foundation for their lofty structure, you would not have exaggerated in counting the number of units in your Navy and Air Force.

You would have also realized that the psychological structure of the sons of our nation, including the great Iraqi people, and their belief in fate is based in the first place on the words of God Almighty in which they believe. God Almighty does not love the faithful to fight under the feeling of superiority in numbers alone in their ranks against the ranks of infidels, insolent people, and aggressors.

Thus God Almighty reproached and admonished the faithful who were marching under Muhammad Ibn-'Abdallah to battle in the early times of Islam. God said: And of the day of Hunain; behold, your great numbers elated you, but they availed you naught. [Koranic verse]

God wishes that the faithful rely first and foremost on their faith and trust in God. That is why he did not come to their aid in the Hunain battle when their great numbers elated them. God, however, helped the faithful gain victory in (?Badr) when they were greatly outnumbered by the armies of the polytheists and atheists. God wanted to give the faithful a lesson that they and their offspring may remember.

However, you, Bush, and those who support you have forgotten that God Almighty have instructed us to be ready for any duel with atheism, injustice, and tyranny, and to rely on him. God said: Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including the steeds of war, to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies of God and your enemies. [Koranic verse]

We have followed the dictates of God to the letter and prepared ourselves very well for battle if you choose and if Satan prods you to give battle.

When we call for peace, we abide by what God says, not out of fear. You are ignorant of history. We are being faithful to the values which God Almighty has inspired in us, for we have no fear of the forces of Satan, the devil that rides on your shoulders. It seems that you are ignorant of the history of the great Iraqi people. The Iraqis fought off the armies of the British colonizers in 1920 with axes and machetes, if you know what that means. The Iraqis defeated the English and started a tradition of [words indistinct].

In the Iraqis' insistence on the values in which they believe, the other candidates, who imagined that the English had nominated them so that the English might hold the reins of government, refused. The Iraqis brought Faysal and enthroned him at first as their king. Faysal was an Arab from the land of Hejaz. He was not an Iraqi. The Iraqis did all this within the context of their insistence on their national wishes and the principles of the nation in which they believe as well as part of their insistence on God's will against the will of treason, aggression, colonialism, and atheism. If this is what the Iraqis did in 1920 and afterward, how can you imagine that threats can intimidate and frighten them when such threats come from the atheist position which you represent.

How can you imagine that threats will scare Iraqis when their planes and tanks are like yours? [words indistinct] rather better than your tanks and the tanks of your collaborators, and that their planes are [word indistinct] your planes. What is more important, [words indistinct] is that they are believers and you are an atheist, unbeliever, sinful aggressor.

The Iraqis and those leading them today, Mr. Bush, remember that al-Husayn [Ibn-'Ali, the third Shi'ite imam] is their grandfather and their leader. They are the loyal descendants of that immortal page in the nation's history. They also believe that al-Husayn, God's peace and blessings be upon him, within the framework of what he believed—that faith is on his side and that God is with him in the fight against the adversaries—have fought thousands of people with only 70 men who had chosen his path, may their souls all rest in peace. So, why should they fear now when their force that believes in God has reached the level it has reached.

We ask God's forgiveness once again if we make a mistake in the comparison, because the basic element in power is our faith and the basic element in your weakness is your disbelief.

The Iraqis, together with all sons of our nation, also remember that Baghdad—which has become small now in your eyes, may God guide you to see what you should see correctly—the Iraqis' beautiful and faithful capital and the nation's symbol in battle, was one day, not far away for us within the framework of taking lessons, the minaret of people in faith and civilization. One man who deviated from the right path tried to make challenges. His name was (Makfur) the Byzantine. Harun al-Rashid, then the master of Baghdad and leader of the faithful gathering, returned (Makfur's) letter with the following words written on it: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, from Harun al-Rashid, the leader of the faithful, to (Makfur), the Byzantine dog: Son of the infidel woman, I have read your letter. You will see and not hear the answer. Greetings.

The Iraqis, Arabs, and all Muslims are aware of all this. Moreover, they always have God on their mind and they pray to His glory. They reject injustice and refuse to bow to the unjust tyrants. This is the (?merit) of our struggling people and our great nation. You who have forgotten God imagine that threats will make our people kneel before you, but our people kneel only to God Almighty.

We say that not to boast of our history, though that is an integral part of us, but to affirm that we intend, God willing, to make our present match the virtue of our past. We refuse to attribute to the American people anything that is not positive, for those people have rose to meet their humanistic duties and went out in their hundreds of thousands to denounce your aggressive policies.

Having said that, I wonder: Do you have no qualms of conscience coming from the man that is still inside you, despite your fraternity with Satan? Do you not experience nagging qualms of conscience that may deter you from evil, so as to spare you the horrible price of continuing the game that you have started? You are seemingly enjoying the threats and intimidation, as you have shown no desire to opt for dialogue and prudence that may lead to peace.

Fear God, withdraw your armies and those of your allies from the land that is sacred to Arabs and Muslims. Only this recourse, and not any other, would meet the minimum qualifications of the path that may now bring the people of the United States of America and yourself to defeat, to the woes of aggressive wars, and to hostility with Arabs and all Muslims.

Such is the recourse that has been open to you so far and is still open to you before the moment of aggression, for which you are planning, comes. It is to be recalled that your policy on your own land has come under no attack from the Iraqis or the sons of our people and that the dignity and future of your people, so long as they are on the right path, are safe, and have never been assailed or threatened.

This is what is available to you, because we have neither threatened your land nor committed aggression against your country and people. It is you who came as aggressors, crossing the oceans and the seas to occupy the land of our sanctities, our nation's seas, and gulfs in our territories. You say that Iraq is confronting the world and not only America. In the name of faith and in the name of the believers, with the Iraqis in the forefront, we say that you and your administration [words indistinct] in your aggressive measures and in preparing the circumstances and reasons to commit the crime of aggression and war.

In truth, it suffices to cast a look at the people in the Islamic and Christian worlds and at those who represent their religious and mass positions, who stand in the line resisting your whims and upholding the human concepts, [words indistinct] your dignity has reached in the world of the devil, clamor, aggression, and atheism. Such a world is not ours and none of the (?disgraceful) factors in which you believe. This is in addition to God's values which forbid us to be part of your corrupt world or to respect that world's aggressive and [word indistinct] stand.

For the wise to discover that you are living in a world you created for yourself through money, threats, and the love of destruction and harm, they need only examine what has happened. You have spent much money on your accomplices in the crime—those who live with you in the world you created for yourself, a world that you will later burn as Nero did.

This world of yours, which you are (?persistently) talking about, would not have been created had you not spent a lot of the money of the United States, of the people of the Saudi Arabia, and of others whom you forced or ordered to pay by threatening their economic interests and [word indistinct] future. If you think this is not known, you are mistaken.

Let us count the number of states that sent their forces to the land of the Muslim sanctities. And let the people of the United States, and the people of the world, answer our questions: Which state of those has not been paid by you, Fahd, or the Croesus of Kuwait? Which of them has not received the illegal money it asked for? And which of the countries that voted in favor of your resolutions at your Security Council, which advocate aggression on Iraq, has not benefited from the crime or received what would fill its belly with fire?

You and your lackeys are annoyed by the world of the righteous people, who believe in God, his divine books, his messengers, and doomsday. This world builds its solidarity through persuasion and belief in the one God and in the rights of the oppressed on earth, who have been patient with your injustice and that of your hateful world. With a clarity that might be useful to those who think before committing the crime, I want to say to you

that you might be planning air strikes to achieve lightning war, thinking that Iraq will yield. You are deluding yourself. Your calculations may have led you to believe that this alone will fulfill the slogan of the lightning war you are talking about. If this is what you are thinking of, hoping that Iraq will yield to you after the air strikes and the emergence of the brokers and merchants of politics who will call for a cease-fire and bargains, and if you believe that the ground forces can be neutralized, then you are deluding yourself, and this delusion will place you in great trouble.

We say to you in the name of God, in the name of the people of Iraq, and in the name of the nation that this illusion will be dispelled by the gathering of believers. And then you will be able to define neither the battlefield nor the type of weapons that will be used.

After the first step you take on this mad path, if you begin aggression, you will not be able to define the battlefield, arms, and time. If you can begin aggression and war, then you will not be able to define the arena of the duel, the type of the weapons that will be used, and the duration of the battle. You will find that the Air Force, on which you base your explanation of the lightning war, will not be alone in the battle. The battle will be prolonged and heavy blood will be shed.

Israel, the daughter of the evil ones in America, will be under the hammer. The role of political brokers, whom you believe will save your plan for a lightning war, will decline.

We say to Fahd through you—as you, regrettably, have become his master and the sovereign power in his Kingdom and over his people—that until this moment we have not used the Army against you. But, after using the armies of the infidels against you, everything will then become possible through our people toward you.

Our immediate support will be the heroic people in the Kingdom of Al Sa'ud, the people of Hejaz and Najd, the people of Mecca, Medina, al-Ta'if, Najran, Dhahran, and all the cities, villages, and the fraternal people of the eastern area. You have placed them and their wealth under the spears of the foreigner after greatly oppressing them. Regret will then not be useful to those who express regret.

The American forces will leave. Circumstances and positions will change. But those who want to live in honorable neighborliness must realize that the people of Iraq and the people of Najd and Hejaz will remain neighbors and that the believing power in Iraq will not be destroyed by the tyrants of infidelity and will get stronger, God willing.

What remains for us is to say in this letter to the American people that Bush, according to his consideration and feeling, has pushed matters to a personal showdown. He has thus ignored all the chances we have given to him, and foremost of these is the 12 August initiative. Had he utilized this initiative, he would have emerged from the crisis with self-respect. After pushing matters to this point, however, we do not think that he can act objectively. The Geneva meeting proved this.

When all those Bush sent to Iraq will tell what will benefit him in the aggressive tactics that have imprisoned him in order to push things toward an impasse to justify his aggression and aggressiveness. [sentence as heard]

Based on this—and so that Bush will not burn the world as Nero burned Rome—we believe that he must let the Arabs solve their affairs as they have solved other issues; that Bush must withdraw his forces and those of his allies from the holy lands of the Arabs and Muslims; and that he must look at the 12 August 1990 initiative in a new and responsible way, not as the officials in the United States did when they made statements against it even before they read its official text two hours after it was issued.

God is great. Let the lowly be accursed.

[Signed] The faithful slave of God, Saddam Husayn

[Dated] 16 January 1991, corresponding with 29 Jumada al-Akhirah 1411 Hegira

Saddam Makes Statement

NC1701050091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0418 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Statement by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on 17 January, place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Verily, God said the truth. We said, O fire, be thou cool, and a means of safety for Abraham. [Koranic verse] O, great Iraqi people, sons of our great people, valiant men of our courageous Armed Forces, our people, your resolve against evil and evil people, against the atheists and their helpers and allies. At 0230 on 17 January, the treacherous have committed their treachery, Satan's follower Bush has committed his treacherous crime, he and the criminal Zionism. The great duel, the mother of battles, between the victorious right, God willing, and the evil that will be defeated certainly, God willing, has begun.

The valiant men, your sons and brothers, offspring of the Mohammedan tradition, offspring of the prophets and messengers, and offspring of those faithful ones who carried the torch of Islam, a bright light and an inspiration to humanity, were ready for them. Their vigilance came from God, who lit their way after placing the light of faith in their hearts. Damned be the criminals, damned be the traitor of the two holy mosques [reference to Saudi King Fahd] and the traitor of the Arab and Islamic worlds [reference to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak], who will lose the fortunes of this life, as he and his ilk lost the fortunes of the life after. Cursed be him, criminal, treacherous, and (?despicable) as he is.

O brothers, God is with us. God is with the patient, steadfast, struggling believers. He will definitely grant them victory, God willing. With the escalation of the showdown and the steadfastness of the believers, relief will come and the whole nation will overthrow chairs and thrones established on corruption. It will also overthrow the renegade traitors who are followers of evil, and will crumble the White House, the den of infidels and domination, and the den of poisonous wasps and aggression in Tel Aviv.

Dear Palestine and its good and struggling people will be liberated. Golan and Lebanon will also be liberated. The human being on Arab land and wherever the unjust tyrants oppress people and nations will be liberated.

God, may you [words indistinct] peace on the brave, capable strugglers. God is great, God is great, God is great.

Military Communique No. 1

NC1701101791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan (INA)—The Armed Forces General Command has issued Communique No. 1. Following is the text of the communique:

Communique No. 1 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And we have put a bar in front of them and a bar behind them, and further, we have covered them up; so that they cannot see. [Koranic verse]

O great Iraqi people; valiant men in our brave Armed Forces; pride of the Arabs and the banner of the faithful mujahidin:

At 0230 on 17 January, the treasonous Zionist American enemy—encouraged by the cursed Fahd, the betrayer of the two holy mosques and the servant [of the Americans]—carried out their criminal aggression against glorious and faithful Iraq—the Iraq that raised high the banner of jihad in the name of God and in the name of all mujahidin against infidelity and infidels and against injustice and the unjust. Let the criminals be accursed.

The planes of crime and treason entered from the following directions: East of al-Naza'im, 'Ar'ar, al-Ma'aniyah, Hafr al-Batin, al-Ansab, and al-Abyad areas.

All planes of treason came from Saudi Arabia as of the time this communique was prepared.

Despite the repeated and intense raids, the valiant men were lying in wait for them. And God opened their eyes to see and strike in his name. The resistance of the air defense heroes and the valiant hawks in the planes of confrontation made the criminals fly at high and intermediate altitudes to escape the fires of our intense air defenses. They achieved only the part of their sick dreams destined by God—that is, less than what the believers expected. What will be the results for the infidels, the slaves of the computers and electronics, who will fail before the virtues of the mujahidin whom God granted success—and granted them splendid success—God willing?

The evil ones' aerial attack continued from 0230 until this communique was prepared. The evil ones targeted some residential areas in Baghdad and a number of air bases in their raids.

Praise be to God for his great victory; praise be to God for the steadfastness of the heroes and people who will inflict on the infidels and traitors a frustration whose bitter results will continue to affect them after God disappointed them. Praise be to God, who grants his victory to the believers.

God is great. Let the lowly be accursed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 17 January 1991.

Military Communique No. 2

NC1701095491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0926 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Communique No. 2 issued by the General Command of the Armed Forces]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: O glorious Iraqi people, sons of our valiant Armed Forces, struggling believers and all Arabs and Muslims everywhere; those who believe in the rights of the oppressed and persecuted. Peace be upon you.

1. It has been confirmed to the operation sectors at the Air Defense Forces and air bases that our heroic hawks and the brave men of the Air Defense Forces have downed 14 enemy aircraft of various types up to the time this communique was prepared. The breakdown is as follows:

The Republican Guard sector in Baghdad shot down three planes; the I Air Defense Sector shot down one plane; and the II Air Defense sector shot down one plane. The III and V Air Defense sectors and the naval force shot down nine planes. We ask that the brave men and the men of the Armed Forces to apply the law on prisoners of war and not to kill them. We will benefit greatly from the pilots being kept alive as military intelligence may get information from them. This is in addition to the fact that our religion urges that prisoners be well treated. It is help from God and speedy victory. [Koranic verse]

2. No serious activity by the enemy's ground forces has been noticed against our ground forces sectors at the time this communique was prepared at 1130 of 17 January '991. Our brave ground forces and their faithful men are as fully prepared to teach the despicable the lesson they deserve, with God's help, as were their

brothers the heroic eagles of the Air Force and the brave men of the Air Defense Forces. This is because the forces of Bush and the criminals and agents who have allied themselves with them fear they will discover their miscalculations in a ground battle as they did in their air battle and treacherous attack.

In any case, the Almighty God is with all the faithful and will defeat the infidels and the corrupt agents, God willing.

God is great. God is great. God is great.

[Signed] The General Command of the Armed Forces.

[Dated] 17 January 1991

Mobilization Communique No. 1

NC1701070691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0636 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Communique No. 1 for 1991 issued by the Mobilization and Statistics Directorate at the Defense Ministry:

1. In accordance with Clause C of Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 15 of the Amended Military Service Law No. 65 for 1969, it has been decided to call up those born in 1954, 1955, and 1956, who are under arms [al-musalahin], to Army service.

2. Those who are in the country should report to their recruitment offices within three days as of 17 January 1991; and those who are out of the state should report to their recruitment offices within 15 days.

3. This communique is considered an official notification for all ministries, departments that are not affiliated with ministries, the socialist sector, the mixed sector, and the private sector to inform their employees who are born in the abovementioned years to implement its contents.

Saddam Visits Air Force Command

NC1711111991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1105 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, visited the headquarters of the Air Force and Air Defense this morning and met with a number of the command officers. He acquainted himself with the high morale of our valiant hawks as they repulse the attacks of the invading forces of evil and atheism.

Leader President Saddam Husayn toured the streets of Baghdad and met with a number of citizens, asking about their condition and their high spirits. His excellency also visited the radio and television station building, where he met with the director general and the station's staff. In their chants, the staff renewed their love for leader President Saddam Husayn and their rallying around his wise leadership.

Tehran Reports U.S. Hit on Basra

LD1701042191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Excerpt] War by multinational forces and Iraq began early this morning, Tehran time, and is continuing fiercely. News agency reports indicate that by 0500 hours this morning Baghdad was bombed heavily every 15 minutes. Hundreds of various U.S., British and French fighters attacked different targets inside Iraq.

The wave of the U.S. attacks also covered the areas around Basra, and targets inside Kuwait. On the basis of the latest reports, all the attacks so far have come from the air. The Americans, by striving to paralyze Iraq's missile sites and Iraqi air capabilities, and by destroying its economic and political targets, intend to take control of the next phase of the war, which probably will be a ground battle. [passage omitted]

Basra Residents Flee to Iran

LD1701125791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Following air raids by U.S. forces against Iraq, two missiles hit the city of Basra. IRNA reports from Ahvaz that a female resident of Basra, who arrived in Iran this afternoon accompanied by her child, said that after two missiles hit the city of Basra at 0700 today, ambulances moved to transfer the dead and the injured resulting from the attack. She said air attacks on Basra were continuing at 0900 when she left the city. She said that as a result of U.S. attacks on Basra, normal life had been disrupted and people were leaving the city. The IRNA reporter from the Shalamcheh region reported that the roaring of Iraqi planes and air defense systems could be clearly heard in that region.

Information Ministry—Situation 'Good'

LD1701083691 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The Iraqi Information Ministry said in a telephone contact with APS that the current situation in Baghdad is good, that morale is high, and that all telephone lines in and out of Baghdad are working normally. Concerning a question on news agency reports of an air raid targeting vital strategic military positions and the presidential palace, the Iraqi Information Ministry said that all that is devoid of truth and that Iraq is continuing in its steadfastness and will face the battle with courage.

Forces in Kuwait Said Surrendering

NC1701092291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Doha, 17 Jan (MENA)—Citing a reliable source in the allied forces on Saudi territory, QNA says that many members of the Iraqi forces deployed in Kuwait have begun to surrender to the allied forces.

In a telephone conversation with QNA, the source said that the situation on the borders with Kuwait, especially in the area of al-Khafji, is extremely reassuring.

Israeli Pilots Said in Saudi Arabia

NC1701092691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Iraqi Armed Forces, has disclosed that Israeli pilots have recently moved with their aircraft to bases in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

This was part of a deal between U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney and Saudi Arabia represented by Bandar Bin-Sultan, explains the paper.

AL-QADISIYAH adds that the betrayer of the two holy mosques, Fahd, transferred several million dollars to the Zionist entity for its services, and pledged to compensate the families of the Zionist pilots if hurt.

Attacks on Missile Bases Reported

NC1701112991 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Citing eyewitnesses, REUTER reported that fire has been raging in two Iraqi bases close to the Iraqi-Jordanian borders since this morning, after they were attacked by U.S. warplanes.

The eyewitnesses said that they believe that these were the two bases where the guided missiles were located that were to attack Israel as soon as the war broke out.

TV Station, Rail Terminal Said Hit

LD1701073791 Tehran IRNA in English 0717 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 17, IRNA—Iraqi charge d'affaires in Islamabad Akram al-Douri said to IRNA here Thursday morning that the U.S., British and Saudi war planes have bombarded Baghdad television station and the railway terminal in the city.

He quoted Iraqi President Saddam Husayn as having said that he aims to liberate al-Quds [Jerusalam], and that he would welcome the help of all Muslim states to that end.

Qasim 'Umar al-Yaqut, Kuwait's ambassador to Pakistan, who seemed happy with the ongoing developments on the war scene said he did not personally have any report from the situation in Kuwait. He added he follows the news solely on a U.S. television broadcast in Islamabad.

Missile Bases Reportedly Hit

NC1701112991 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Citing eyewitnesses, REUTER reported that fire has been raging in two Iraqi bases close to the Iraqi-Jordanian borders since this morning, after they were attacked by U.S. warplanes.

The eyewitnesses said that they believe that these were the two bases where the guided missiles were located that were to attack Israel as soon as the war broke out.

SCUD Missile Said Fired

NC1701040991 Paris AFP in English 0357 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, Jan 17 (AFP)—Iraq fired four surface-to-surface missiles Thursday at Saudi territory, which fell in the desert without hitting any target, a senior French officer said.

A diplomatic source had said earlier that a missile landed outside the Saudi capital of Riyadh. But the officer doubted the report.

The Iraq army has Soviet-made Scud missiles with a normal range of 300 to 350 kilometres (180 to 210 miles), which it has modified to reach up to 900 kilometres (540 miles).

A military source, declining to be identified, said Iraq could delay its reaction by up to six hours. "Prepare for a hard strike," he warned.

Air raid sirens sounded in Riyadh earlier after the United States began bombing raids against Iraq.

Commentary Views 'Future of the Struggle'

NC1701071691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0628 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O sons of our glorious people; o heroes of our valiant Armed Forces; o honorable Arabs everywhere: Under the slogan of God is great, and under the banner of jihad, the holy gathering of believers led by great Iraq is advancing in defense of the homeland and the nation, and for the sake of God and humanity, to repulse the imperialist Zionist aggression which targets all Arab and Islamic sanctities.

Brothers, it is a major battle, whose results will assert the future of all values of righteousness and belief against atheism and infidelity. It is a major battle, whose results will determine the future of the struggle between the Arab and Islamic nation on the one hand, and the imperialist and Zionist forces and their agents on the other.

Such a deep and comprehensive battle deserves that we, the Iraqis, make all sacrifices—sacrifices that are commensurate with the comprehensiveness of the battle and its results. Our people, whose determination has been heightened by experience and challenges, have the courage to do this. Bush's satanic madness and treacherous crime, with which he expedited his downfall and the death of his little midgets, is the defeat that they will meet at the hands of the believers in God, Iraq's heroic knights, the descendants of prophet Muhammad. They are the brave men, who stood up as decisive swords and devastating storms for all hardships.

This is the duel for which their hearts long, for which they always waited with the preparation and resolve of fighters who are confident of victory. Our fighters will force the head of the American Yankee down into the mud of defeat and surrender. This is a new opportunity that glorious God has offered to the Iraqis to prove their mettle and which the world already knows. The Iraqis are masters of the art of the honorable fight for God, Arab and Islamic sacred values and places.

Our fighters will triumph by God's help and the resolve of their victorious leader Saddam Husayn. God will grant the faithful victory. [radio then identifies iteself as "the radios of the Iraqi Republic and the Voice of the Masses from Baghdad"]

'Crushing Defeat' Promised

NC1701072191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0654 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O glorious Arabs, O Muslims all over the world, O honest men in the world: This is your great Iraq, the bastion of Arabism and Islam, taking an unprecedented stand of dignity in these momentous days that will be immortalized in Arab and Islamic history as one of the great turning points in the glorious nation's history.

O honorable brothers, the treacherous enemy came with its treachery, meanness, and vileness to harm your Iraq, and seeking to impose its hegemony on our nation and sanctities. However, the designs of the evil and infidels will be frustrated. We are challenging them. We will inflict a crushing defeat on them with God's help—they and their despicable agent Fahd. And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

'End of World Imperialism' Vowed

NC1701041791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0350 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Thus Bush has wanted this war [words indistinct]. He must realize that we will teach how to regret greatly. We will make the showdown that Bush wanted, using cajolery and intimidation, a disaster for him and his allies and agents. We have sworn by our objective, which we will not concede [words indistinct] after the return of the Kuwait to the mother's lap so that it will be the arena for victory for which we pledged to God, nation, and history, which is the return of Palestine, the Golan, and Lebanon.

After we have offered all we had for peace, it is our duty now to please God and our conscience by defending our principles and land. Bush stood against all efforts for peace. [Words indistinct] tools of his aggression to abort the nation's ambition of restoring its lands which were usurped under the custody and sponsorship of the U.S. Administration.

We in this steadfast country [words indistinct] frankly declare that the Iraqis and the Arab and Islamic people will deal two blows for every one blow so that this showdown will be the beginning of the end of world imperialism as represented by the United States and the restoration of all usurped Arab rights, foremost of which is Arab Palestine.

The army of faith [words indistinct] led by the believer and struggling leader is determined to protect its honor and land.

Developments Before Outbreak of War Traced

Saddam Meets RCC Members 16 Jan

NC1601195691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1949 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn met with the Revolution Command Council (RCC) members today. National Council Speaker Mahdi Salih and Minister of Culture and Information Latif Nusayyif Jasim attended the meeting.

Assembly Speaker Remarks

NC1601164991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih met today with a delegation representing the general secretaries of the affiliated organizations of the Arab Economic Unity Council based in Baghdad. Dr. Fallah Sa'id Jabr, secretary general of the Arab federation for food industries, was at the head of the delegation.

The National Assembly speaker said the mother of all battles is an encounter between the poor and the opressed who are led by Iraq on the one hand and the imperialist and Zionist opportunists led by the United States on the other.

He added that Arabs can bear the imperialists and Zionists' pillaging of their wealth up to a certain limit but that they can never be humiliated or insulted. He asserted that a dignified and proud life is far better than a life of humiliation.

Salih emphasized that the battle that honorable Iraqis and Arabs are fighting today against the forces of aggression and disbelief is one ordered by the Almighty. He added that the Iraqis are an instrument for achieving victory for the oppressed, that the Almighty is on their side, and that victory is certain for the Iraqis.

Dr. Fallah Sa'id Jabr reiterated the organizations' support for the Iraqi leadership and people and their strong backing for Iraq in the battle of truthfulness, "the mother of all battles."

He added that leader President Saddam Husayn has become a symbol of all the noble and benevolent actions embodied in the message of the Arab and Muslim nation. He noted that Iraq will continue to be the model and guide for pan-Arab action in the various fields.

The meeting was attended by Mustafa 'Abd-al-Qadir Salih, secretary general of the Arab federation for engineering industries; Dr. Mahmud Radi, secretary general of the Arab federation of fish products; and Alexan Murad [name as received], acting secretary general of Arab Union for maritime transport.

U.S. Thwarts Algerian Plan

NC1601221891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2202 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—INA has learned from diplomatic sources that Algeria tried to secure a U.S. commitment on an international conference on the Palestinian issue but failed because of the U.S. rejectionist stand.

The sources explained that, faced with the U.S. rejection, Algeria was obliged to end its diplomatic drive to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Tribal Leader Sees Possible Mutiny

PM1601170791 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 13 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by 'Abdallah al-'Urayfij: "Chief of Iraqi Samawah Tribes Tells 'UKAZ: If War Braks Out, We Will Aim Our Fire at Iraqi Regime"]

[Text] Riyadh, Dubayy—Over 300,000 Iraqis belonging to the Iraqi Samawah tribes have urged Saddam Husayn to withdraw immediately and unconditionally from Kuwaiti territory. This is to comply with the UN resolutions and spare the region the dangers of war and the calamities of destruction that could afflict the region and Iraq as a result of Saddam's intransigence and insistence on continuing aggression.

Ibrahim Bin-Na'im al-Samawi, chief of the Samawah tribes, has told 'UKAZ over the telephone from Dubayy: We demand that the head of the Iraqi regime withdraw completely from Kuwait before the UN Security Council's January 15 deadline expires and respond to the peace efforts made by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Al-Samawi added: Saddam Husayn's intransigence will expose Iraq to grave dangers.

The chief of the Iraqi Samawah tribes revealed that he had sent a cable to the head of the Iraqi regime, demanding that he withdraw immediately and completely from Kuwait. The cable sent by the Samawah tribes to the head of the Iraqi regime via the Iraqi Consulate in Dubayy urged the Iraqi regime to back down and heed the logic of reason. It also reminded him that the sons of the Central Euphrates tribes are strong fighters and that it was they who led the Sha'lan revolution against British occupation in 1920. The cable called on Saddam Husayn to respond to the appeal made by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, namely to withdraw completely and observe true Islamic and pan-Arab values. It warned him that, if he does not respond to that appeal and if a war breaks out, the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi people will aim their bullets at those who drove them into an unjust war.

Health Minister Praises Cuba

FL1601030091 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Jan 91

["Exclusive" report over video from Baghdad by Rodolfo Casals]

[Text] The city of Baghdad today, 15 January, experienced another normal day in the tense, dangerous, and long Gulf crisis that began on 2 August 1990. Hundreds of thousands of Baghdad citizens today participated in massive demonstrations. These demonstrations, in eight different Baghdad areas, were held to repudiate war, to express support for President Saddam Husayn and the constitutional measures adopted by the National Assembly to confront possible aggression.

A few minutes ago I spoke with the Iraqi health minister regarding the situation Iraq is experiencing in the health sector as a result of the current blockade. This blockade has had a tremendous effect on the supply of medicine and milk for children.

The Iraqi health minister provided an exhaustive explanation in this regard. He said that this unjust blockade has already caused the death of over 2,000 people, the majority of whom are children who lack baby formula, antibiotics, vaccines, and other basic medicines needed in hospitals.

The Iraqi health minister also praised Cuban humanitarian aid, and the presence of Cuban health specialists because the majority of foreign health specialists—doctors, nurses, etc.—have left Iraq. But, he said, the Cuban medical contingent, consisting of 182 people, is firm in its post. He added that the Cuban presence in Iraq is exemplary. The health minister also praised the commander in chief in view of the Cuban position on the Gulf crisis.

Health Minister Says Medicines Embargoed

NC1601184591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—Health minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has denied allegations by the head of the U.S. delegation to the WHO meetings that medical supplies are not included in the trade embargo on Iraq, saying that this is completely untrue and clearly shows the U.S. Administration's deceit.

Commenting on WHO's refusal to discuss a working paper submitted by the Iraqi delegation on the medical and food embargo against Iraq, the minister told INA that the U.S. Administration has banned U.S. pharmaceutical companies from fulfilling their contracts with Iraq, even though Iraq has paid for them in cash and in foreign currency.

He noted that the land, sea, and air embargo imposed on Iraq by the U.S. Administration and its satellite countries and their ban on the shipment of medical supplies, vaccines, and medical equipment expose the U.S. Administration's inhuman stand and the falsity of their allegations.

The health minister added that Security Council Resolutions 661 and 666 are unrealistic and impractical and reflect a single truth, namely that medicines and children's vaccines are included in the unjust and illegal embargo imposed against Iraq and its proud people.

King Fahd Held Responsible for Iraqi Deaths

NC1601183591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—AL-THAWRAH says that the blood of the Iraqis in the mother of battles will become volcanoes of immense anger that will subside only after revenge has been taken, treason has been uprooted, and the traitors have been cut off and chased from all their hideouts.

Writing under the headline "Fahd Pays the Price", the paper says that traitor Fahd knows more than any one else that when the battle takes place, the U.S. and Atlantic forces, with all their advanced equipment, will not be able to protect him from the Iraqi sword.

Traitor Fahd, adds the paper, will be held responsible for the death and martyrdom of all those who fall in the battlefield when the war breaks out; and it will be a double responsibility, in both general and personal aspects.

The paper explains that humiliated slave Fahd will be responsible before God, the nation, and the Iraqi people for the death of every Iraqi child, woman, and old man that results from the blockade and the shortage of medicine and food. All his accomplices will also be responsible for these criminal, mean, and cowardly acts.

The paper says that Fahd will be held responsible for all the consequences of this crime—namely, for squandering money on the invading forces; spreading corruption and committing acts contradicting religious and social traditions and values; violating freedoms; and closing the Iraqi pipeline crossing Saudi territory with a view to imposing blockade on, harming, and starving the Iraqi people.

The humiliated slave Fahd is fully responsible for the crimes and the acts of high treason, foremost of which is the crime of bringing U.S., Atlantic, and Zionist forces without any justification to desecrate Arab and Muslim sanctities and use the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] as a base for aggression against Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: When the battle starts, the Arabian desert will turn into a graveyard for the concentrations of the aggressive invaders because the struggling [mujahidin] believers and the shouts of God is great will fill the entire Arabian Peninsula.

Brussels Weather Center Reports Break-In Attempt

WA1601170991 Brussels HET LAATSTE NIEUWS in Dutch 16 Jan 91 p 1

[Article signed "D.D.": "Iraq Attempts To Break Into Our Meteorological Computer"]

[Text] Zaventem—According to a reliable source, attempts were made from Iraq yesterday morning to break into the meteorological computer of Zavantem [Brussels] Airport. Together with Moscow and Vienna, Zaventem constitutes one of Europe's main centers providing meteorological data for navigational purposes. For 10 days now, no observations have been transmitted from Iraq and Kuwait to the worldwide meteorological network.

For that matter, the French Defense Ministry yesterday prohibited French meteorological services from releasing any weather forecasts concerning the Gulf region.

Foreign Minister Reacts to U.S. Operation in Iraq

Receives Baker Message

TA1701120191 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1110 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpts] Good afternoon from the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. The meeting with U.S. Ambassador William Brown in David Levi's office ended a few minutes ago. The meeting lasted some 40 minutes in a very excited atmosphere. [passage omitted]

Brown delivered a message to Levi from Secretary of State James Baker, and Levi sent a similar message back. The message mainly stated Israel's support for the U.S. operation in which courage, resourcefulness, and wisdom of war were combined. Minister Levi said: It has been proven to all that the feeling of justice and faith has a force of its own and is expressed on the battlefield. This is a war of the forces of evil against the forces of good. He added: Israel wishes to thank the United States for the expressions of understanding and the positive communications as expressed in a network of consultations and coordination. We spoke to Foreign Minister David Levi a short while ago:

[Begin recording] [Levi] It has again been proven that holding consultations, coordinating, and walking together pays both sides in maintaining the values that have always guided them.

[Gutman] How would you describe the level of cooperation between Israel and the United States in this crisis?

[Levi] Good. Better than it was before. I hope that tomorrow it will be even better in terms of agreement and in the discussion of topics without pressure, while understanding Israel's needs and the threats it was facing, and the desire to act to remove them.

[Gutman] You were given a message from Baker, and delivered a message back. Could you share with us the main issues discussed?

[Levi] It is impossible to speak of the details. I would say, nevertheless, that the messages stated that both sides are satisfied; that they both stood by what has been agreed; that there was a determination by the U.S. Administration to complete the mission to eliminate this threat and destroy the weapons arsenal frightening the whole region. They also mentioned Israel's security as a supreme value in the eyes of the United States, and U.S. pride in Israel's behavior. [end recording]

Levi Assesses Operation

TA1701135091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1310 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Interview with David Levi, Israeli deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin in Levi's office on 17 January "after receiving a message from his U.S. counterpart James Baker, which was delivered to him this afternoon by U.S. Ambassador William Brown"—live]

[Text] [Halperin] Mr. Levi, is the level of coordination with the Americans satisfactory?

[Levi] I think that what one can say today is that there is not only coordination but also understanding, an understanding of the danger Israel is facing. Besides, all those things that had been concluded with Israel—namely removing the danger to Israel with full force—have also been honored. This coordination is important. We invested a lot of effort in it, and it has proved its value to the satisfaction of both sides.

[Halperin] In other words, there is still danger.

[Levi] In this matter there is no room for interpretation. Right now the campaign is in full swing. I think that the operation is being conducted incessantly and with high intensity, with a clear view of the targets and a specific order of priorities. As to whether the danger is over, no one could say that we have indeed heard Saddam Husayn claim as much. We do not know whether certain threats are still valid, but the campaign is going on. As long as this is the state of affairs, one must not minimize either the threat or the need to take precautions. We must be wary, take heed of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] instructions, and realize that the campaign is not yet over.

[Halperin] Has the U.S. Air Force destroyed the missile launchers aimed at Israel?

[Levi] The U.S. and British Air Forces are doing a fine job and are continuing their mission. The targets they set for themselves have been destroyed. There is no certainty that the job in those unseen targets has been completed. Work continues on the deciphering of aerial photographs and maps. The operation continues without cessation.

[Halperin] Would you say that victory is at our doorstep, or that this will be an ongoing battle?

[Levi] It would be safe to say already now that the very speedy action and amazing precision have shattered the main threat. Yet it would be impossible to say that this can be termed a victory. What is victory? If it means undermining Saddam Husayn's arsenal, then we are on the right path; if it means that the forces belonging to the United States and its allies have proved their supremacy, precision, and sophistication vis-a-vis the Iraqis, then the answer is yes; if it means that the Americans have shown determination and steadfastness, I believe they have shown these qualities over these principles without caving in, even if at the last moment some individuals have been shown to be weak of heart.

Crisis Uncertainties Cause Continued State of Alert

TA1701112691 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Network in Hebrew 1115 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] Senior cabinet ministers were given a security briefing this morning in which they were told that there is no certainty—I repeat, there is no certainty—that all the Iraqi launchers and missiles aimed at Israel have been destroyed. Therefore, the ministers were told, the state of alertness should continue.

Foreign Ministry Issues First Reaction to Events

TA1701044391 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Network in Hebrew 0431 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] A few minutes ago Foreign Ministry spokesman Yosef 'Amihud issued the first Israeli reaction to the ongoing events in the Gulf: Israel, which is not involved, has been closely following events and wishes the troops full success. The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: We hope everybody returns home safely.

Shamir 'Encouraged' By Reports, Remains Cautious

TA1701052991 Jerusalem Israel Television Service in Hebrew 0503 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is encouraged by the reports as they have been received so far about the military operation. This morning he told our political correspondent Mikha'el Halperin: It looks good, but it is too early to reach absolute conclusions as yet. We need to wait, and we must stay on alert.

Later today Mr. Shamir will hold consultations with ministers and his aides. Yitzhaq Shamir received the initial report on the U.S. operation last night around midnight and since then he has been receiving briefings constantly.

Arens: Government Still Supports U.S. Position

TA1701052591 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] We will now go to the defense minister's office to hear a statement from Mr. Arens about the Gulf war that broke out after midnight last night.

[Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe] Defense Minister Moshe Arens followed events through the night and received regular briefings from the chief of staff and Israeli Army commanders. He was in continuous contact with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The defense minister is here to make this live speech:

[Defense Minister Moshe Arens] Good morning. We followed reports about the operation of the U.S. Air Force and their allies through the night. As expected, Saddam Husayn's unwillingness to agree to the concessions demanded by President Bush ultimately led to the decision of the U.S. Administration to resort to force.

Our policy in the last few months has been one of support for the U.S. position. We continue to support the U.S. position. We conducted a restrained—and, I believe, responsible—policy. At the same time, we took all precautions required by the situation that existed in the past few months, and in the past few days in particular.

The Israeli public cooperated with these steps. Its responsible conduct, which evoked appreciation worldwide, can serve as a model to be emulated.

We have received reports about the results of the U.S. Air Force operation. This was apparently a massive operation and, as things look at the moment, also an effective one. However, it is still too early to say that the threat posed to Israel has passed. We must stay alert, be ready, and take all required precautions.

I urge the public to listen to the radio, and follow the instructions we will be issuing. At this hour, we all trust the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and are united behind it. The IDF remains alert, set, and ready for every eventuality.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Defense Minister, has the time come to ask questions or should we make do with what you just said at this point?

[Arens] I think the time to ask questions will come some time later today.

Reactions to U.S. Offensive Attack Reported

Prime Minister's Adviser

TA1701010291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0052 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] The prime minister, so I was told a short while ago by his media adviser Avi Pazner, was not surprised by the opening of the U.S. offensive. In a television interview last night, the prime minister spoke with certainty of the possibility of war. Pazner received the first report from U.S. sources and relayed it to Mr. Shamir, who is at home following events. That was at five minutes to midnight.

At 0015 [2215 GMT] an authoritative and apparently detailed report was received from Washington that the attack was about to start. Brigadier General 'Azri'el Nevo, the prime minister's military secretary, [as heard] passed this message to Prime Minister Shamir. In other words, Shamir got real-time information. He is now at home, receiving ongoing updates from Defense Minister Moshe Arens, so that developments are being followed and preparations are being made for the next moves.

Chief of Staff Shomron

TA1701004891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0045 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Immediately upon learning about the U.S. offensive, Chief of Staff Dan Shomron instructed the General Staff major generals who had not been present at the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Headquarters to report for an urgent discussion. Israeli elements noted that the Americans had kept their promise and informed Israel of their intention to attack. Military experts, including defense establishment personnel, yesterday assessed that everything is ready for a U.S. offensive.

Rabin, Labor's Peres, Likud's Meridor

TA1701062391 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning said that the whole world should express its deepest appreciation for the U.S. President and his military forces. The U.S. military move will become a lesson in military history.

Knesset Member Shim'on Peres, the opposition leader, said that last night was a great night for the democratic world. Now we must decide where we are headed politically, economically, and otherwise.

Justice Minister Dan Meridor said that any end to the war that leaves Saddam Husayn leading Iraq will not give Israel peace.

Palestinian Leader Nusaybah

TA1701054891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 0520 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] We have a first reaction from the Arab side: One of the most prominent Palestinians in the territories, Dr. Sari Nusaybah, this morning said that he was surprised by the force of the U.S. attack. At the same time, Nusaybah told our correspondent Gil Sadan that the Palestinians had no choice but to support Saddam Husayn, because he offered them the only ray of hope.

According to him, the Palestinians came out the losers of the Gulf crisis. He expressed the fear that even if the United States indeed tries to pressure Israel to move in the direction of an arrangement with the Palestinians, this arrangement would not meet the minimal needs that would satisfy the Palestinian people.

Assistant Operations Branch Chief

TA1701032391

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 0145 GMT on 17 January airs a live interview with Brigadier General Ze'ev Livne, assistant operations branch chief, at the Tel Aviv studio, by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari at the Jerusalem studio.

Brig. Gen. Livne states that everybody, including "the Israel Defense Forces [IDF], is prepared to stave off a possible strike against Israel, although no such strike has been launched." He says Israel knows that the system of missile sites in western Iraq has been hit, and he expresses hope that it will be destroyed soon. Livne now repeats the announcement made by the IDF spokesman to the public, saying that the IDF is not considering mobilizing additional reserve soldiers: "We are following the situation, and decisions depend on a situation assessment. In our opinion, the limited mobilization so far meets the needs." He also says that as time passes and the U.S. attack continues, "the chance for launching missiles against us is continually decreasing, although there is always a danger that a single launcher located somewhere in Iraq will launch a missile in our direction. We are prepared for such a possibility."

Brig. Gen. Livne says it seems that the attack is proceeding as planned and successfully so. The Americans have a clear edge in night and electronic warfare. Asked about reports on the bombing of Iraqi airfields, he says: "There is no confirmation of this yet. We hope the airfields are also being attacked and that they will be rendered inoperational."

Livne reiterates that "the public can surely be calm." It is too early to determine at this stage the accuracy of Iraqi missiles, although, again, the chances for missiles being launched are diminishing now. Livne declares anew that we know the Iraqis have a chemical capability, but we do not know about missiles with chemical warheads.

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0220 GMT on 17 January also carries an interview with Brig. Gen. Livne along the same lines outlined above.

Soviet Spokesman Comments

TA1701091591

[Editorial report] Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew at 0755 GMT on 17 January carries a live report of a telephone interview with Sergey Grigoryev, "the deputy spokesman of USSR President Gorbachev," by Gid'on Remez, "recorded this morning."

Remez says: "A short while ago I managed to contact Sergey Grigoryev, who is President Gorbachev's deputy spokesman." In reply to a question on how the USSR learned of the U.S. attack, Grigoryev "gave a very interesting reply: Concerning the U.S. attack, we learned about it at 0300 Moscow time, when the attack started. President Gorbachev is now preparing a speech that will be delivered soon on Soviet television, and an announcement will be made by the spokesman of the Soviet Foreign Ministry." Remez says: "As you can see, we did not get a clear answer on whether the USSR was given an early warning about the attack."

In reaction to the attacks themselves, Grigoryev says in English: "Of course we did not want war, and we still tried until the last moment that it would be possible to

solve the problem by peaceful means, but once we know it has happened, we know the legitimate reasons the Americans are pursuing: trying to defend the independence of Kuwait and make sure that the Iraqi troops are withdrawn from Kuwait."

Asked whether this means the USSR is losing hegemony in the Middle East, Grigoryev says in English: "We are not viewing that as any direct threat to the Soviet Union." He added: "We do not think we have been cut off from the process of solution of the peace process in the Middle East as a whole."

Grigoryev later says that the Soviets would want to see "an international conference devoted to the Gulf before anything else."

IDF Orders Vital Employees To Report to Work

TA1701023791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0130 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] announces mobilization for work in vital plants. This activates a collective order for all vital plants' employees. The order requires that every such employee report to the plant in which he works. The order is also binding on all security service workers who have not yet received an order for reserve duty.

IDF Asks People To Stay Home, Open Gas Mask Kits

TA1701003891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0034 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has announced that, due to the battles which have erupted in the Gulf, and as a precaution, the citizens of the state, except for emergency economic system personnel, are requested to remain home, to open their protective kits, and to leave them within reach. Those who make up the emergency economic system and who leave their homes on duty are requested to carry protective kits with them. The public is asked to listen to the radio continuously and to obey instructions. Television this morning will air instructions on the use of the protective kits, and civil defense centers will be at the disposal of the public as the support system for the distribution of the protective kits. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew repeats the Jerusalem Radio announcement at 0037 GMT]

U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem Fired On

TA1701034091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 0340 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that a short time ago shots were fired at the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem. No damage or casualties were reported.

U.S. Embassy Denies Reports of Shots

TA1701110191 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The U.S. Embassy has stated that the report about the shots allegedly being fired at the Consulate in East Jerusalem has been examined and that no signs that such an event took place have been found.

Firebomb Attack on U.S. Consulate Aborted 16 Jan

TA1601180391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was hurled at the U.S. Consulate building in East Jerusalem today from the adjacent YMCA building. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the guard on duty spotted the firebomb and managed to remove the burning rag from the top of the bottle, thereby aborting the explosion.

Prime Minister Shamir Interviewed on Gulf 16 Jan

TA1601194891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1913 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondents 'Imanu'el Halperin and Yoram Ronen, in Shamir's office—live]

[Text] [Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, the public is tense, and perhaps one of the reasons for the great tension felt by the public is the conflicting messages it gets from your policy: on one hand, you say the Iraqi missiles will not have a great impact, as they can only inflict minor damage, and on the other hand you took the drastic move of closing the schools. As a result, the streets are empty and there is heightened public tension. How would you reconcile these differences?

[Shamir] There is no contradiction. In fact, the damage that can be caused, according to the experts, is not that great. Still, there is a danger in anticipation to which we are alert and ready, although we must not be too tense. In my opinion, however, people should not be overly apprehensive or tense. One should bear the proportions in mind and take them into consideration. After all, between ourselves and the source of the danger—the Iraqi enemy—lies an immense stretch of land, and an extremely large military camp and power under U.S. command is deployed between them and us. In the past there were times when we were surrounded by a sea of enemies stationed right at our borders, and we were alone. Then, too, we prevailed. This will surely be the case now. There is not a shadow of a doubt in my mind that we will overcome and emerge from this crisis stronger and more confident. Nevertheless, there is a danger that we might be harmed, or that someone might be hurt.

[Ronen] You say that there is an army....

[Shamir, interrupting] The danger is not a total danger, although someone is likely to be injured. We want to see that the injuries are as minor as possible.

Our mothers are worried about their children. Some of them, or rather many of them, asked yesterday: What if, in the course of the normal school day, something happens? What will befall the children? We will go out of our minds! Given that pressure, those in charge of making such decisions decided that the children would not go to school for one or two days, and then there is Saturday. The situation will be reviewed again afterward.

[Halperin] Sir, let us go back to the dangers. The main fear is of an attack by so-called nonconventional weapons, the emphasis in Israel being on chemical weapons or gases. There are, however, also other types of nonconventional weapons—nuclear weapons, for example. Admittedly, 10 years ago Israel destroyed the nuclear reactor near Baghdad, but that was 10 years ago.

[Shamir] All the experts and those in the know share the view that Iraq still does not have that type of weapon. It does not possess nuclear weapons. As for chemical weapons, there are all sorts of conjectures as to whether these weapons can harm us or even hit us. The danger exists, and the fear is legitimate. Naturally, these threats and this possibility should be taken seriously. That is why we took all the necessary measures. We had a few months in which the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] had time to prepare all the systems—the defense of the home front, readying all the units that must operate on the front line as well—and I believe we have done everything possible to minimize the damage and to give the public very little cause for worry.

[Ronen] Mr. Shamir, the military confrontation between the United States and Iraq appears unavoidable tonight. It is no secret that the United States wants us out of this confrontation. Can you envision a situation in which we could refrain from reacting to an Iraqi missile attack—say, if they fall on an uninhabited area such as the sand dunes south of Rishon Leziyyon, as someone suggested—and be able to ignore the issue?

[Shamir] I would say that we, too, want to be left out of the conflict. After all, what have we got to do with it? It is not our matter, but the Iraqi dictator wants to forcibly involve us so that he can attack us. It is absolutely inconceivable that we will be unable to protect ourselves or respond if we are attacked. Either way, the decision must be left in our hands.

[Ronen] Will we respond or attack automatically in any event?

[Shamir] I am not saying that, but we have the right to do so. It is not a matter of an automatic reaction or bookkeeping. We must, however, have the power and authority to decide how and when we will defend ourselves, react, and take action.

[Halperin] You made that abundantly clear to the Americans, to Eagleburger who visited us a few days ago, but I understand they were not too pleased with the clarification. Does that mean that Israel may take action even without informing the United States or getting the go-ahead from Washington?

[Shamir] There is a problem here, of course. I mentioned earlier the fact that a large army, commanded by the Americans, is deployed between us and Iraq, and that the U.S. Armed Forces are there to operate, which they will do. There is consequently a problem: We must not stand in their way, and they must not stand in ours. We discussed that.

[Ronen] After the talks with the delegation headed by Eagleburger, would you say that there is currently a larger degree of strategic cooperation between us and the Americans?

[Shamir] I cannot divulge such details; I can only say that there is a certain understanding on the issue and we remain in touch.

[Ronen] Is there greater understanding now than before?

[Shamir] Certainly.

[Halperin] Sir, there are fears in the territories, too—Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District: On the one hand, Israeli fear of attacks should a war with Iraq break out; and on the other hand, deep concern among the Palestinian population that Israel might exploit agitation or some attacks to carry out a large operation of mass deportations across the Jordan River—a population transfer for all intents and purposes. What can you say about this?

[Shamir] The Arab imagination sometimes has no bounds. On the other hand, we read leaflets disseminated there by the terrorist organizations calling on the public to take weapons and openly come out in aid of the Iraqis, as soon as war breaks out, by attacking the Zionist enemy. We must take this into consideration. Israel will not allow people living in the country to become what is termed the fifth column. We will not tolerate disruptions. On the other hand, we have no idea or thought of taking advantage of the situation so as to unjustifiably punish anyone there. We will not do anything during a war that we would not do now.

[Halperin] In other words....

[Shamir, interrupting] If they remain quiet and do not interfere with the Army and the security forces' operations, nothing bad will happen to them.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, King Husayn yesterday indicated the intention of remaining uninvolved in the military clash. He said explicitly that he will prevent the entry of Iraqi and Israeli military forces and will not allow aircraft from either side to cross his airspace. Are you pleased with King Husayn's declaration?

[Shamir] What he said actually makes sense. Jordan is in a difficult predicament, it is caught between the devil and the deep blue sea: Iraq on the one hand—and there is an undeniable affinity between Jordan and Iraq. At present, the majority of the Jordanian population is under Saddam Husayn's influence, although I might perhaps not be able to say the same about the monarch and his immediate circle. On the other hand, there is Israel, which has been telling Jordan: We are neighbors, we have no evil designs as far as you are concerned. We do not want to attack or annihilate Jordan, but with one condition: Jordan must not allow itself to be used as a tool in the hands of the Iraqis. If they honor that, Israel will not touch them.

For years that border has been quiet. The Israeli-Jordanian border is the longest we have with a neighboring Arab country, and it has been calm thanks to us and to Jordan alike. This situation can continue.

[Halperin] Sir, the war has not yet broken out, and already the United States and Europe have been talking about the morning after with regard to Israel: The linkage [previous word in English] and an international conference. We heard about France's proposal at the Security Council yesterday. A few days ago you warned against heavy U.S. pressure after the crisis; the foreign minister mentioned a psychological linkage. This linkage must be in the air, is that not so?

[Shamir] There has been a lot of talk about it. The plan for an international conference is not new, but that linkage is the result of an evil and mendacious conspiracy. I cannot recall who was first to suggest it, but clearly Saddam Husayn did not invade Kuwait to free the Palestinian people from Israel's yoke. Still, someone gave him that untrue pretext to allow him to say: Give me Palestine, and I will return Kuwait. I am not sure he said specifically that he would return Kuwait, but he demanded first of all to be given Palestine. Meanwhile, of course, this idea has gripped all sorts of countries, even though they have had the experience of conciliation and have known its historic failure.

[Ronen] You mean France?

[Shamir] Possibly. This has failed. It did not succeed. Saddam Husayn never even made a move in the direction of these defeatists. The United States stood firmly against this linkage more than any other country. That is the state of affairs today. As for what will happen after the war, first of all let us get to the point where the crisis is behind us, our civilians can take a sigh of relief, and we are able to pursue normal life and can proceed with the missions we must undertake. Of course, there will be pressure and demands. Everyone knows what we oppose and what we favor. The familiar game and the political struggle will start, but not under pressure.

[Ronen] You say that pressure and demands can be expected. The question, therefore, is whether we should not be prepared for that in advance and possibly draw up plans for our own initiative to counter the pressure?

[Shamir] We must always be prepared. It would be safe to say that we are psychologically ready. After all, we have always said that we desire peace and aspire to a settlement of this conflict between Israel and its neighbors. We have plans and ideas for that end, but they are all based on one principle: negotiations between them and us. We do not want some tribunal, some conference that will convene in a manner similar to the Security Council meetings, which we see so often on television, where people sit around a table and raise their hands to make decisions about our future. This we will not allow, will not accept.

[Halperin] Sir, on the domestic scene: You finally briefed the Labor Party members on the crisis—I say finally because this happened only two or three days ago. You said that the time is not yet right for the formation of a unity government. It appears that you are not too anxious to go back to that framework. When will the time for that be right?

[Shamir] Look, national unity is important; it is a significant component of strength. I think that presently our people are unified and united, first of all, over our shared fate, and secondly, over the tremendous desire to ward off this vicious attack on us. So we have the unity. The political manifestation of that in a national unity government is a complicated and complex affair. It seems to me that under the prevailing circumstances it is very difficult to repair that vessel, which was broken several months ago. If the time is right and we are able to do that, we might.

[Ronen] Finally, Mr. Prime Minister. Are we sitting in a sealed room? Do you go to work armed with a gas mask, as we have all been required to do?

[Shamir] I do not think so, but if the need arises, we will do that and follow all the demands the IDF may level. I would still like to tell the citizens of Israel that there is no reason to be overly tense or worried. The State of Israel is now stronger than ever, perhaps more so than during the times of the kings and the First and Second Temples. Israel is ready and in possession of all the means it needs to defend itself. The nation is united, and we are not alone. I call upon all the citizens of Israel to act calmly and coolly, to cooperate with our security forces and with the IDF. God willing, if we follow this, we will emerge peacefully and will be able to pursue Israel's normal peaceful life.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, 'Imanu'el Halperin and I want to thank you and wish you a pleasant evening.

Milo Gives Gulf Address to Knesset 16 Jan

TA1601141591 Tel Aviv Television Channel 2 Network in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Address to the Knesset by Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo answering motions on the agenda on the Gulf crisis on behalf of the government—live]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, honorable Knesset. The wide national consensus, which found expression in the Knesset today, answers the needs of the hour and befits this time of crisis for the State of Israel and the people of Israel, a time when the entire free world stands up to a tyrannical and ruthless dictator who tramples over every human value we and the entire free world believe in.

I have listened very carefully to all the speakers who addressed this plenum today, and I can say confidently that, with the exception of the remarks of Knesset Member [MK] Muhammad Nafa'.... [After several interruptions, Milo explains that the defense minister was unable to attend the meeting and he has asked Milo to reply on his behalf.] I think that, in these difficult times, the prime minister can do nothing else but address the issue which has become the focus of everything: preparations for the possibility of a war in the Gulf. War is imminent; war in the Gulf is very imminent. During the entire waiting period, we were most cautious. I believe that in this crisis, the Israeli Government and the prime minister have shown that in such situations, a wall should be built to cautiously, wisely, and responsibly defend Israel's most vital interests at such trying times.

Listening to speakers of all political parties address this forum, I was happy to hear expressions of a wide national consensus. I was happy that almost all the speakers—who came from different parts of the Knesset, from various parties—expressed appreciation for the way we have dealt with this crisis from the outset. The path we chose was designed first and foremost to defend the State of Israel and the people of Israel, and to protect everyone's vital interests.

We hope not to be involved in the looming war. We have made an effort to maintain what was termed a low profile, to be cautious, and to abstain from taking part in a military move which is not vital to us. However, I would like to stress here and now—and I am referring to the remarks which MK Rabin and other MK's made today—that if we are attacked, if Iraq attacks the State of Israel or its citizens, we will have to respond to such an attack in a clear, firm, and tough manner. We have a positive dialogue and many spheres of understanding with the United States, but we must make unequivocally clear that the right and duty to defend Israel's citizens and Eretz Yisra'el is in the hands of the Israeli Government which is responsible for the security and well-being of every Israeli citizen and resident. We heard governments urging their nationals to get out of Israel, and we voiced no complaints. Our citizens have no place to go, they need not go anywhere, and they never will leave Israel, and it is the Israeli Government's duty to protect them with every means at its disposal. And, thank God, we have at our disposal a large, strong, clever, and sophisticated Army capable of responding to every attempt to strike out at the State of Israel and to harm its citizens and those living in it.

[text] This time we are confronting an enemy who, besides ruthlessness and a total rejection of all human values, is known to resort to hitherto unknown means. Saddam Husayn is a man who poisons wells, who threatens in no vague words to use chemical weapons, as well as other means as he is known to have used in the past. At present he is threatening to employ these means against us, against the United States, and against the U.S. coalition. He would be wise to remember that the reaction to these or other means against the State of Israel and its citizens will be very fierce, and he would be wise not to use any means whatsoever against the State of Israel. Our responsibility as the Israeli Government to defend the State of Israel will be reflected in the firm and unequivocal action we will take if Iraq dares attack the State of Israel. These things should be said plainly, unequivocally, and firmly.

As I have already stated, we are happy to have an understanding and coordination with the United States. However, the duty and the right to defend ourselves lies first and foremost with the Israeli Government and the Israeli Defense Forces, which will do what they must to protect the State of Israel and its citizens.

We have known tough tests; at this hour, we must remember both the tests and what helped us to endure them. And, as stated by several speakers today, we must also remember that, as a state, we do not always enjoy backing and support for our stands, although retrospectively it becomes clear that we have chosen the right path. Today I expected to hear—the speakers may have forgotten to utter the words—a good word about the former Israeli Government and former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who decided in 1981 to demolish the Iraqi nuclear reactor. It is now apparent that their decision saved the State of Israel, its people, and the entire free world, all those who are now confronting that despotic ruler Saddam Husayn. [catcalls to which Milo replies by repeating his last remarks]

I think today we can all stand up here in the Knesset and say with utter confidence—as did all the speakers who took the floor today—that the State of Israel and the Israel Defense Forces are now strong, ready, and capable of protecting themselves against any attempt to attack and harm the State of Israel and its nation. It is no coincidence that on the eve of such a tough test, we are united. This was expressed by colleagues who addressed the plenum before me: MK Sarid spoke of a current passing from one to the other as we face the dangers shoulder to shoulder; MK Rabin spoke of the wide national consensus we have achieved in the face of the threat. And how lucky we are, despite the disagreements and controversies over less important things of normal times, to be now united on matters pertaining to existential challenges, to security, to the defense of the country; to be unanimous with regard to the basic tenets for which we wage this struggle and for the defense of which we are willing to make sacrifices.

Mr. Speaker, Knesset Members. Some of today's speakers referred to problems connected with the home

front's preparedness for war. They also mentioned various possible home front problems resulting from actions taken by Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and by Israeli Arabs. I would like to state from this podium that to date, in all past trials, Israel's Arabs, with the exception of some isolated cases, have demonstrated their loyalty toward the State of Israel in times of crisis. I cannot say the same about the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, because we have never experienced such trying times as we are experiencing today. I hope that they, too, will behave at this hour of crisis as inhabitants of the State of Israel should and as they must behave when we, the State of Israel, regard it as our responsibility to protect them, even when their views and opinions are sometimes different from ours, often on subjects which are central and vital. Therefore, I believe.... [Milo is interrupted by catcalls and requests to present queries]

In any event, I believe we must not generalize; every case must be addressed individually. It is obvious that if there are attempts to create disturbances on the home front while the State of Israel is at war, they will be dealt with in the appropriate manner. This is plain to all. At the same time, we should remember that past experience—which was fortunate, and which I hope will be repeated in this instance—was an absence of significant disturbances. I believe this time there is also a chance for this. I take advantage of this opportunity to appeal to the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and to the Arabs of Israel, not to create problems which might impede the preparations of the home front while we are forced to face such a complicated and difficult trial. [Milo replies to catcalls on above issue.]

Mr. Speaker, I listened carefully to the remarks made here today, which included criticism leveled at the conduct of several countries belonging to the coalition confronting Saddam Husayn. I want us all to remember that since World War II, this may be the first time a very wide international front, which includes East European countries and is led by the United States, has stood up against tyranny, ruthlessness, and the irresponsible leadership of Saddam Husayn. They are standing united against the evil intent of the dictator, of Saddam Husayn. This union must be welcomed. As far as Israel is concerned, there has been no precedent for our confronting an enemy together with most of the free world. We can now say with satisfaction that despite the current situation in the Middle East, even countries which disagree with Israel on political issues, have rejected linkage [previous word in English] between the Gulf crisis and the political issue between Israel and its neighbors and the Palestinian problem. [MAPAM] MK Tzaban said today that, despite his outlook, he objects to such linkage [previous word in English], just as friends as well as adversaries throughout the world have rejected it.

At present, the world and the State of Israel face one problem only: how to deal with an aggressive and dangerous ruler, the ruthless dictator, Saddam Husayn, who is threatening the State of Israel; who is threatening the free world; who is threatening his neighbors; and who threatening the very chance for peace both in the Middle East and in the world. We can proudly say that the State of Israel is today set and ready for every eventuality and danger. The general situation now is one in which a broad international front confronts Saddam Husayn. We, the State of Israel, are now capable of protecting the Israeli citizens and inhabitants, and of defending our most vital interests. I fervently hope that this war will end without Israeli intervention. For us, this will be the best way. However, if we are implicated despite ourselves, we will be perfectly capable of reacting and of acting cautiously, responsibly, wisely, and pragmatically. The eradication of Saddam Husayn's aggression will be carried out successfully by the coalition which confronts him and by the State of Israel which is obliged to defend itself and its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the situation, I would like your permission to propose that we settle for the debate that was held here today. I think this debate is an honor both to the Knesset and to the entire people of Israel in that it reflects our unity vis-a-vis the dangers and our combined efforts in the face of the perils our country and the region are confronting.

Army Spokesman on 'Probable' Iraqi Chemical Attack

NC1601190591 Paris AFP in English 1855 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Tel Aviv, Jan 16 (AFP)—Israel expects Iraq to attack it with chemical rather than conventional weapons, army spokesman Nahman Shay said Wednesday.

"An Iraqi chemical attack is more probable than a conventional one and it's in that vein that we've prepared our rearguard," General Shay told reporters.

"We have no reason to take Iraqi threats lightly, that's why we've done everything to assure the population's protection against these dangerous weapons which we've never before faced," he added.

Israel has distributed gas masks to most of its population to guard against any possible chemical attack from Iraq and has been airing television spots on anti-chemical defensive measures.

The spokesman said the Israeli Air Force had been placed on a high state of alert and that operational aircraft had been increased and reserve pilots mobilized.

The spokesman said no general or partial mobilization order had been issued to other services such as the infantry or armored units, but said the army had bolstered its intelligence activities in recent months.

Asked about a possible Israeli incursion into Jordan to repulse any Iraqi attack from there, the spokesman urged reporters to take a closer look at the region's map.

"You can see that we don't have to pass through Jordan to hit Iraq and that several other options exist," he said without giving details.

Reaction to Hurd Remark on Nuclear Arms

TA1601183291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Interview with Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav by Jack Katzenell on 16 January; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Katzenell] This evening Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, warned that if it turns out that Iraq possesses one or more nuclear weapons, Britain may use nuclear weapons in the Gulf. How does Israel see a development of this kind?

[Merhav] Well, we are of course very horrified of any such development. This was also the reason, since we knew the nature of the Iraqi regime, that we took our unilateral act in 1981, an act—let me remind you—that has been on the agenda of the United Nations with the aim of condemning us every year since then. We do hope that there will be no such development, and I am even afraid to think of the consequences.

Commander Says Syrian Deployment Not Offensive

TA1601173591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Syria has not carried out an offensive deployment. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces], however, is maintaining an exceptionally high alert both in the Golan Heights and along the Jordan River. These remarks were made this afternoon by Northern Command Commander Yosi Peled.

Concurrently, the IDF is making preparations for stepped up terrorist attacks on the northern border. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports from the north:

Mayors and council heads of northern towns asked for the reactions of Major General Yosi Peled and his staff to various reports published in the foreign media regarding the high alert in Syria and Jordan in view of the Gulf crisis.

Syria does not intend to start a war, Northern Command officers told the mayors. [passage omitted]

With regard to the northern border, Gen. Peled and his staff officers were less optimistic. They assessed that terrorists will attempt to carry out attacks along this frontier. [passage omitted]

The senior officers stressed that while Jordan also maintains a high alert, this state does not reflect offensive preparedness either.

Chinese Gulf Initiative Not Taken Seriously

TA1601120691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] As to the latest peace initiative at the United Nations, the Chinese one, nobody in Jerusalem is taking it seriously and observers here do not believe that the Americans will even consider it. It contains nothing new that could possibly win international backing, one Israeli official said. It offers American withdrawal in return for an Iraqi promise of withdrawal, and as one observer here said: You know how much that is worth.

Curfews Declared in Judaea, Samaria 17 Jan

TA1701014291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0120 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Report by Arye Gus]

[Text] In view of the situation, in view of the start of the battles in the Gulf, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] this morning imposed a curfew on the entire Judaea and Samaria region, in other words, on those places that were not already under a curfew for the past two days. A curfew already exists in the Gaza Strip due to the violent incidents that erupted in the wake of the two PLO officials' murder. To repeat, loudspeakers and other means announced this morning that a curfew is also imposed on the large towns of Judaea and Samaria. IDF soldiers and forces in Judaea and Samaria were instructed to enforce the curfew. This substantiates the defense minister's remarks that the IDF is not prepared to take any risks, nor will it tolerate any attempt to impair the operations of forces in such circumstances. Gas kits were distributed to several emergency teams in some places in Judaea and Samaria. At the moment the region is quiet.

Curfew in East Jerusalem; Police 'Beefed Up'

TA1701035291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0300 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Clashes with masked individuals erupted earlier this morning in the village of Silwan in East Jerusalem and the Shu'fat refugee camp in the northern part of the city. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that a curfew was clamped on both locations. The police are banning inhabitants of all other villages in East Jerusalem from leaving their places of residence.

Israel Police national headquarters has begun operating its command room. All Israeli policemen have been asked to report to their stations. Patrols have been beefed up in the outskirts of all cities, and Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner is in close contact with district commanders and with the Army.

One Injured in Riot in Abu-Tor; Curfew Imposed

TA1701094991 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] A curfew was imposed a short time ago on East Jerusalem's Abu-Tor neighborhood following a riot

staged by a few dozen local residents, who were dispersed with rubber bullets and tear gas. One of the rioters was injured by rubber bullets and was evacuated by the Red Cross.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that, in addition to Abu-Tor, curfews have been imposed on the village of Silwan and the Shu'fat refugee camp.

Lives of Curfew Violators Said in Jeopardy

TA1701045491 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0400 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the residents of the territories have been warned that anybody leaving his house and violating the curfew would be putting his life in danger. There have not yet been reports about any incidents in the territories. [passage omitted]

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj told our correspondent that the outbreak of war is regrettable, because whatever its results may be, it will inflict a great deal of suffering and loss of human lives. The Iraqis brought the war upon themselves, Frayj said, because of their intransigence. Frayj voiced his concern about the fate of the 700,000 Palestinians living in the Persian Gulf area.

Tanks To Move Into Territories if Security Worsens

TA1701085691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jan 91 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The defense establishment has in the past few weeks worked out a plan whereby if the security situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were to deteriorate as a result of war in the Persian Gulf, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Armored Corps troops would move into populated areas in the territories as a deterrence.

Meeting with Palestinian leaders yesterday, Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip, said that if local inhabitants engaged in violence and kept the IDF busy at a time of war, IDF tanks would be moved into the Gaza Strip. The leaders of the Palestinian community in the Gaza Strip initially did not understand his remarks, so Gen. Ramot repeated his warning that the IDF would deploy tanks in the Gaza Strip if it considered it necessary.

The head of the Civil Administration asked his interlocutors—As'ad al-Saftawi, Ahmad al-Yazchi, Ahmad Sahhan al-Shawwa, Dr. Zakariyya al-Agha, Attorney Furayh Abu-Mudin, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and 'Aql Matar—to suspend the intifadah temporarily. The Palestinian leaders, on the other hand, asked that Israel stop harassing the residents of the territories.

The defense establishment decided on other plans and preemptive measures in the event of war in the Persian Gulf, including the enforcement of a general curfew in the territories.

The defense minister and the IDF's top echelon have made it plain that rules of war would apply in the territories in times of war. The IDF would use live fire, rather than plastic and rubber bullets, against rioters. If a Palestinian were to block a road in times of war, IDF soldiers would not hesitate to shoot him.

On orders of Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, a preemptive curfew was imposed on the entire Gaza Strip yesterday.

According to a high-level military source, the current assessment is that only the "hard core" in the territories would engage in action against IDF troops in times of war, while most of the population would not.

Officer Cites 'Rules of War' for Gaza Strip

TA1601135591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] A senior officer told reporters in Khan Yunus that it was made clear to the local population that if war breaks out in the Gulf, the behavior of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the field will be that required of a war situation and the rules of war will cover the Gaza Strip. The IDF will be much firmer in dealing with disturbances. There is no need to change existing regulations on opening fire, but their implementation will be stricter.

Police Given New Regulations for Opening Fire

TA1401231791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 2210 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo announced this evening that Israel's police have been issued new regulations for opening fire in case of an emergency. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that the regulations are in case Arabs in the territories or radical elements in the Israeli Arab sector try to disrupt home front preparations or IDF [Israel Defense Forces] movements in an emergency.

Unrest, Mourning for Slain PLO Officials 16 Jan

TA1601174691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] A 16-year-old Hebron youth died today of injuries he suffered during a local riot yesterday. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Muhammad Abu-Sunayna was hurt by a rubber bullet during a stoning incident.

In Khan Yunus, soldiers fired at an individual who violated the curfew and threw rocks at them, injuring him slightly. In Qusin in the Nabulus area, the body of 55-year-old Mukhtar Husayn Muhammad 'Abd-Rabbuh was found this morning. He was kidnaped from his home by masked individuals four days ago. His body was found in the village riddled with knife stabs.

A mourning strike was observed in Judaea and Samaria today to commemorate the senior PLO officials who

were assassinated in Tunis. Black flags were flown in many villages. The Supreme Muslim Council in East Jerusalem has opened its offices for mourners.

Approximately 60 Arab prisoners, most of them from East Jerusalem, rioted in Ashmoret prison in Kefar Yona. They protested the killing of the three senior PLO officials in Tunis. Three guards and a fellow inmate sustained light injuries and were treated in the prison clinic. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that after police activated tear gas, quiet was restored. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the riot at Ashmoret prison was sparked in the prison courtyard. The officer in charge of the prison immediately instructed an end to the daily exercise period and the return of all the prisoners to their cells. Several prisoners then began to throw various objects at the guards.

In Kafr Qari' in the Triangle, a 10-year-old boy was injured by shots fired by a military truck traveling through the village. The boy was transferred to Hilel Yafe Hospital in Hadera and is reported in good condition. The 'Iron police and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have launched a campaign to locate the military vehicle.

Stones were thrown at an Egged bus near the village of 'Arraba in the Galilee. No one was hurt and the bus was only slightly damaged. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the police detained two 17-year-olds following a chase.

UNIFIL, Amal on 'Highest Alert' To Prevent Attacks

TA1701092891 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] troops in south Lebanon and members of the Shiite organization Amal have been placed on the highest alert and have been conducting patrols to prevent terrorists from staging attacks against Israel as a token of solidarity with Saddam Husayn.

Security sources in Lebanon told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that as soon as they realized Saddam Husayn's predicament, PLO headquarters in Sidon moved several groups of extremist terrorists, who apparently planned to stage attacks on Israel's borders from the nearby refugee camps.

No Movements Observed on Jordanian Side of Border

TA1701093391 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] No movements have been observed in the Jordanian Army outposts along the Israeli border since last night. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Israeli lookouts observed Jordanian soldiers entering their barracks and staying inside until the late hours of this morning. Jordanian soldiers have not been conducting the patrols they had been holding daily this past week.

Following Israeli Army instructions, Israeli farmers in the Jordan Rift Valley did not go out to work in the fields this morning. On the Jordanian side, too, farmers were not observed to go out to work in the fields.

Levi Outlines Jordanian Border Responsibilities

TA1601175791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Interview with David Levi, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Shlomo Ganor; date and place not given—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ganor] Mr. Deputy Prime Minister, last night King Husayn made it plain that he, too, does not wish to be implicated in this war. What can you tell him tonight?

[Levi] At the very outset of this conflict, we relayed a message to him via this television and through several statesmen that Israel has no interest in jeopardizing Jordan and that we have nothing against Jordan; on the contrary, we are interested in stability in Jordan and would like quiet to be maintained between us and Jordan. We would like all the constructive activities conducted along this whole border, which provide many people with a source of livelihood, the open bridges with Jordan to continue for the benefit of man. We would like to prevent a situation in which the Jordanian and his children would pay the price of Saddam Husayn's manias by losing everything he owns and everything he has contrived to build. We are doing everything to ascertain that this message is both received and respected.

I hope King Husayn will adhere to his word with regard to both sides of the border. Iraq must not be allowed to feel free to desecrate Jordanian soil or air space. If it does so, it will cause terrible injury to Jordan, because Israel will not sit back and do nothing. I believe Israel and Jordan face the same danger. While we are not positioned on the same front, the danger we face is the same, and I hope we will act cautiously and do our duty. Jordan will act wisely by respecting its duty on both sides of the border.

Public Response Said 'Moderate and Restrained'

TA1501154991 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by Army affairs correspondent On Levi]

[Text] The public's reaction to the threat of war is moderate and restrained. Most of the Israeli public has confidence in the IDF [Israel Defense forces] and does not believe that a chemical attack will indeed take place. These are the results of a survey carried out by the IDF's Behavioral Science Department on 13 January. The survey encompassed 1,200 people.

The questions posed by the survey were:

A) What is your estimate of the probability of a chemical attack on Israel?

Surprisingly, only 22 percent of all respondents expressed the belief that a chemical attack on Israel was indeed forthcoming.

B) Do you feel frightened about the prospects of a chemical attack?

Thirty-two percent of the respondents answered that they were frightened, as opposed to 51 percent that replied that they were frightened in August 1990 during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Only 18 percent of the children reported the sense of fear.

Exactly 41 percent of all respondents asserted that they were worried about their families. Ninety-five percent of the respondents expressed confidence in the IDF. As for confidence in the Civil Defense deployment [HAGA], 64 percent said they had complete confidence in HAGA.

Out of all the respondents, 83 percent said that they trust the IDF spokesman, while 64 percent said that the media supplies adequate information. Sixty-one percent said that the media reports are clear enough.

Fifty-eight percent of the respondents had carried out preparations for sealing off a room. Fifty-six percent had stocked up on food. Seventy-eight percent said that, upon hearing an emergency siren, they would closet themselves in a sealed room, only four percent would descend to an air shelter.

In summary, the IDF assessed that both the information campaigns and the public's response are satisfactory. IDF spokesman Nahman Shay said that the public's behavior is similar to the previous survey held, when gas masks were distributed to the urban sector.

Health System Set for Chemical War Casualties

TA1301131991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 January 91 p A4

[Report by health affairs correspondent 'Edna Aridor]

[Excerpts] The health system is winding up its preparations to deal with an emergency situation, including the drilling of hospitals in absorbing chemical warfare casualties, treating burn injuries, administering intensive respiratory care, and in handling orthopedic injuries and injuries requiring surgery. Work has been started to construct decontamination showers for casualties, equipment and drugs have been stocked, and the medical teams have been taught how to treat casualties and protect themselves. Each hospital has cards with clear instructions on how to handle the various kinds of injuries.

The deployment is being based on the experience gleaned from the Iran-Iraq war, during which Iraq employed mustard gas and nerve gas, which are deadly agents. The hospitals are readying themselves to deal with hundreds of chemical warfare casualties. [passage omitted]

The deployment also comprises ways to counter biological warfare through immunization. In the event of massive casualties there is a comprehensive plan for increasing the number of beds by 50 percent. A forward deployment of approximately 100 clinics has been established to reassure people suffering from anxiety; the clinics will ease the pressure on the hospital system. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 13 January in a pool report on page 5 adds that "during the absorption of casualties the hospitals will send most of the regular patients home. Nurses with children will work around the clock and their children will be housed within the hospital grounds." The report adds that "the Magen David Adom first aid service has equipped 400 ambulances and each station has prepared a sealed room to absorb casualties. During the first 72 hours of war and until all civil defense reserve units are operating, the Magen David Adom emergency units will be responsible for treating and evacuating civilian casualties to hospitals."]

Increase in Economic Projects for Territories

TA1101120891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jan 91 p 20

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] The number of private economic projects approved by the Civil Administration in the West Bank has shot up dramatically since the Gulf crisis began, signaling a radical new approach to economic development there.

Ten to 15 projects were approved between August 1989 and August 1990, but 53 have been approved in the five months since Iraq invaded Kuwait, says Brig.-Gen. Freddy Zakh, deputy government coordinator in the territories, who is responsible for the economy.

Zakh said the majority of the new projects were licensed in the past three months, since the Temple Mount riot on October 8 led to a wave of stabbing attacks on Israelis and widespread calls to keep Palestinians behind the Green Line.

In the Gaza Strip, the number of licenses has jumped to 20 since August from seven in the previous year.

"There has been no change in policy, but there is a new approach," said Zakh.

Leading Palestinian activists have called for a return to the villages and towns to help build an economic infrastructure in the territories as a basis for a future Palestinian state.

But the Defense Ministry has different goals. "Instead of having workers from the territories come to factories in Israel, we want those factories to go to the territories," Zakh told THE JERUSALEM POST. "Even kibbutzim are interested in going into partnership."

The new approach, he added, can benefit from the mass immigration which has created a construction boom

within the Green Line. A majority of the approved projects are for cement and building-block factories.

The approval of these projects, many of which had been awaiting approval for years, comes during a general economic slump in the territories. There is little money to operate the factories and fewer Palestinian customers for their products.

In Bethlehem, for example, Mayor Ilyas Frayj said the municipality now receives only three requests for building licenses a month, compared with 30 four years ago.

Thus, it is likely the customers of the new factories will be Israelis.

Zakh says that many Israeli businessmen have expressed interest in establishing plants in the West Bank with Palestinian partners. Palestinian sources have claimed that some Palestinian businessmen have been told they must take an Israeli partner, but Zakh denies any such overt coercion to tie Palestinians into the Israeli economy.

Frayj claims that, at least as far as the building industry is concerned, Defense Minister Moshe Arens's liberal approach is contradicted by Ari'el Sharon's Housing Ministry, which has been giving loans to Israeli quarry owners to help them undercut West Bank competition.

Frayj and 10 local businessmen met with Arens earlier this week at the latter's request to voice this and other complaints.

The new approach is part of a long-term strategy. The 1991-92 Civil Administration budget will be 13 percent higher than last year's, "and most of that will be for development," Zakh said.

The Defense Ministry has been under strong pressure from the Likud and other parties to put the 65,000 Palestinians working illegally within the Green Line to work in the territories. The outgoing government coordinator, Shmu'el Goren, feared that sending them home with no jobs would increase disturbances in the territories where unemployment is close to 30 percent.

Several of the newly licensed projects are not linked to Israeli business interests. Most of these appear to be in the Gaza Strip, which Israelis would find easier to part with in a political settlement than the West Bank.

These projects include a $10 million citrus processing plant in Gaza, financed by Italy, which could compete with Israeli farmers, and the contribution of $1m. by the Civil Administration to a new Gaza industrial zone.

If the Gulf crisis ends with the restoration of Kuwaiti sovereignty, many Palestinians expect an upturn in the territories' economy—if Israel permits it. A lot of Palestinian money now frozen in occupied Kuwait could flood back into the West Bank.

"We hope this will happen, but it's too early to tell," said 'Udda Shami, director of the East Jerusalem-based Economic Development Group, which helps find financing for small Palestinian businesses.

Kuwaiti-based Palestinians are valued for their administrative skills. Shami said his organization's top accountant fled here from Kuwait three months ago.

Growth Rates for Country, Territories Forecast

TA0801182991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jan 91 p A1

[Report by municipal affairs correspondent Yerah Tal]

[Text] A master plan to disperse the population of Israel, updated with new aliyah data and expected immigration figures for the coming years, refers to a fourfold increase in the Jewish population of the territories, from 66,500 people (in late 1988) to 250,000, within two decades.

That national plan was approved by the government in 1985. Now, after being updated with new data, the plan has defined the targets of dispersing a population of 7 million, both Jews and non-Jews within the Green Line, as well as Jews in the territories, up to the year 2010.

Under the plan, the overall population in the Jerusalem District will increase from 554,200 (in late 1988) to 700,000 in 2010. The Jewish population will grow from 400,000 to 510,000, while the non-Jewish population will increase at a more moderate rate, from 144,300 to 190,000. [figures as published] The Jerusalem District's percentage of the national population will, nevertheless, decline from 12.2 percent to 9.8 percent, according to the following breakdown: The percentage of Israeli Jews living in Jerusalem will drop from 10.9 percent to 9.1 percent, and the birth rate of Arabs in the overall population will decline from 17.6 percent to 12.2 percent. [sentence as published]

Larger growth rates are forecast for the Northern District, whose overall population will grow from 746,000 (in late 1988) to 1,473,000 within two decades. In other words, the Jewish and Arab populations of that area will almost double, and an almost demographic balance between the two populations will be registered (748,000 Jews compared to 755,000 non-Jews). The Southern District will also almost double its population from 533,000 to 1,015,000.

The Central, Tel Aviv, and Haifa Districts will grow at more moderate rates.

The settlement for which the highest growth rate is planned is Qatzrin in the Golan Heights, whose population is expected to grow from 3,000 (in late 1988) to 30,000 within two decades.

The plan shows that the populations of settlements currently suffering the worst problems—such as large-scale unemployment, bad infrastructure, and social and economic hardships—will be at least tripled. For instance, a

settlement like Yoqne'am, which has serious unemployment problems and is based on only one factory, Soltam, is expected to grow by almost 400 percent. The same is true for Dimona, which also has a high unemployment rate and social and economic problems.

The plan also shows that more moderate growth is planned for a large part of the Arab areas within the Green Line, whose population will increase at a lower average rate than the Jewish sector, chiefly because restrictions will be placed on the expansion of the Arab villages.

Within the Green Line the plan deals with population growth from the level of districts to that of individual settlements; for the territories beyond the Green Line such details are not specified and the expected overall population figure is mentioned.

Satisfaction With New Soviet Foreign Minister

TA1601093591 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Jan 91 p 3

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Excerpts] Officials in the Prime Minister's Office voiced satisfaction with the appointment of Aleksandr Bessmertnykh as new Soviet foreign minister.

Bessmertnykh, currently ambassador to Washington, is considered a protege of outgoing foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who favored a pro-Western orientation.

"We are glad to hear this as we know what the alternatives are" one senior official said. [passage omitted]

Senior officials in the Prime Minister's Office said they had feared the budding Soviet-Israeli rapprochement might be endangered had Mikhail Gorbachev named a Communist ideologue or given the nod to Yevgeniy Primakov, a top Soviet Arabist who favors a softer line toward Saddam Husayn.

Israeli officials point out that Bessmertnykh just held a positive meeting last Friday with Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Zalman Shoval.

At that meeting Bessmertnykh said that full diplomatic ties with Israel were "inevitable" in the not too distant future. He also expressed interest in moving ahead with unspecified bilateral commercial projects.

Meanwhile, some Israeli diplomatic officials privately voiced concern that the crackdown in Lithuania may put Israel in a bind, as the U.S. is said to want to cool its ties to Moscow while Israel hopes it can continue the momentum towards full ties.

Last month, the Soviets upgraded relations with Israel to the consul-general level and, more importantly, they have enabled the massive wave of Soviet Jewish immigration to continue.

"We are aware of the problem, but we expect that any problems between the U.S. and the Soviet Union will be temporary," one official said.

'Air Aggression' on 'Brotherly Iraq' Reported

NC1701042191 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Excerpt] In the early hours before dawn today, brotherly Iraq came under air aggression ['udwan jawwi] waged by the planes of the United States and of the forces allied with it. News from Baghdad indicates that Iraqi antiaircraft guns are confronting the successive air attacks waged on several Iraqi positions. No official statement has been issued by Baghdad so far. [passage omitted]

Official Spokesman's Denunciation

NC1701131691 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1235 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: An official spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Since the Gulf crisis erupted, Jordan has endeavored to treat the causes and results of the crisis within an Arab framework. The Jordanian leadership obtained an Iraqi commitment to withdraw from Kuwait during the first days of the crisis, and the date for the beginning of the withdrawal was set. Jordan also obtained Iraq's approval to attend an Arab mini-summit in Jeddah to address the causes that led to the outbreak of the crisis.

However, insistence on the issuance of the Arab League resolution by the Arab foreign ministers and the emergence of extremist and hardline positions on the part of some Arab parties, facilitated the Security Council's adoption of successive resolutions on the crisis. This was followed by the arrival of foreign forces in the region, which hindered the withdrawal from Kuwait at the onset and aborted the hoped-for mini-summit in Jeddah.

Jordan continued to work toward a peaceful solution, but all its repeated efforts were met by obstacles placed by many parties. It was clear that those parties were insisting on the war option from the beginning, and that they were buying time to complete the force buildup in preparation for aggression on Iraq under the slogan of implementing the Security Council resolutions.

Jordan, which respected and continues to respect and observe the Security Council resolutions, regrets the fact that a similar crisis in the region was not dealt with in the same manner; namely by adopting speedy resolutions, imposing an economic blockade, and threatening aggression. This is despite the fact that a very long time has passed since that other crisis erupted and led to the occupation and uprooting of an Arab people from their homeland.

The leadership, government, and people of Jordan denounce events in the first hours of today; namely, the brutal onslaught against an Arab and Muslim people and country that always rushed to help their Arab brothers and pay the tax of blood and sacrifice without any hesitation in all the battles that were imposed on the Arab nation. This onslaught was reflected in such a momentous attack on the capital of this country and the possibility of other continued attacks. All those who took part in this will bear the responsibility before God, people, and history for attempting to crush a military, scientific, and human Arab power and a brave fraternal Arab Muslim people genuinely belonging to this nation. May God protect our nation and enable us to safeguard the trust of its coming generations. Help comes from God.

King Receives Soviet Envoy, Letter on War

NC1701111591 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received the Soviet ambassador in Amman at the Royal Hashemite Court today. The Soviet ambassador conveyed to his majesty a message from President Mikhail Gorbachev in light of the outbreak of the American military operations in the Gulf.

Egyptian Envoy's Residence Attacked; No Casualties

NC1701093191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 17 jan 91

[Text] Amman, 17 Jan (MENA)—The residence of Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Muhab Muqbil was stoned today by unidentified people. No one was hurt in the incident, and damage was limited to some smashed windows.

Security around the Egyptian Embassy in Amman has been increased to protect it against any attack.

Civil Aviation Source Denies Airspace Closure

NC1701101291 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0955 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, 17 Jan (PETRA)—A responsible source at the Civil Aviation Authority has announced that Jordanian airspace is still open and that no decision has been made to close it to either incoming or outgoing air traffic. The source told JNA that planes should, however, follow special instructions.

Royal Jordanian Airlines Suspends Flights 17 Jan

NC1701053091 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0510 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The Royal Jordanian Airlines today announced a halt of all flights from and to Amman. This came in a statement by Husam Abu-Ghazalah, general director of the Royal Jordanian Airlines.

[Begin Abu-Ghazalah recording] In view of the emergency circumstances, the Royal Jordanian Airline has decided to stop all flights from and to Amman until further notice. We will inform you of any developments later. [end recording]

PLO Calls Palestinians in State To Mobilize

NC1601173391 Paris AFP in English 1708 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Tyre, Lebanon, Jan 16 (AFP)—The PLO on Wednesday called for a general mobilization among Palestinians in Lebanon and ordered its fighters to prepare to attack U.S. and British interests worldwide, said Zayd Wahbah, a Fatah political official here.

"We'll act from Lebanon, Amman, Cairo and Damascus and orders have been given fighters to prepare to attack U.S. and British interests around the world," the Palestine Liberation Organization official said. [passage omitted]

A Fatah military official meanwhile told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE he expected major Israeli raids against Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

In the al-Rashidiyah camp, the only area where Palestinians maintain an autonomous armed presence in Tyre, fighters were on a state of alert. Operators of artillery and anti-aircraft batteries were geared up and armed civilians, including women, patrolled the camp.

Anti-aircraft batteries were also readied around the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah Wa Miyah camps, in the suburbs of Sidon, another southern Lebanese port city, but there was no outstanding activity reported at Palestinian positions in nearby hills.

In Sidon, representatives of about 20 international and Lebanese humanitarian organizations met Wednesday with Lebanon's Health Minister Jamil Kibbih and placed the region's 25 hospitals on a state of alert, correspondents said.

The representatives also began stockpiling medicines—notably anti-burn drugs—to treat possible victims of chemical weapons, they said.

Supplies of tents are to be made available at public buildings to prepare for possible field hospitals and to shelter refugees.

Some 250,000 Palestinians—including 10,000 well armed guerrillas—live in camps in southern Lebanon near the Israeli border.

The Palestine Liberation Organization has sided with Iraq in its military standoff with the West, triggered by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq has threatened to attack Israel if it is drawn into war by U.S.-led military forces massed against Baghdad's troops in the Gulf. Israel has vowed to defend itself and warned Iraq it will retaliate.

Israeli Gunboats, Warplanes Attack Coastal Area

'10-Minute Exchange of Fire'

NC1601122991 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Before reviewing the latest developments of the Gulf, we point out that Israeli gunboats were cruising off the al-Sarafand coast this morning before firing at the al-'Aqbiyah area at noon, where fighters from the Amal Movement and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization are located. A 10-minute exchange of fire ensued. No reports on casualities are yet available, and the enemy gunboats are still off the coast.

Planes Hit South, Capital

NC1601151391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes today carried out a number of successive, intensive sorties in the airspace of the South and into the airspace of the capital and the mountain.

In another development, the occupation forces this morning shelled the Abu-Rashid mountain area with heavy artillery from their positions in Ibil al-Saqy. Also, in the western al-Biqa', the occupation forces shelled the surroundings of the town of Qinya from their positions in the Abu-Qamhah valley.

Security sources have stated that the occupation forces stationed ground-to-air Hawk missiles on the western plains of Mount Hermon near the town of Shib'a within the occupied border strip. Moreover, security forces have said that Israeli gunboats this morning cruised off the al-Sarafand coast and, at noon, fired at the al-'Aqbiyah area which holds national resistance elements. There was an exchange of fire for about 10 minutes. While there is no word on the outcome of the clash, sources said that the gunboats are still cruising off the abovementioned coast.

UN Dependents Evacuated; 10,000 Leave South

NC1501064591 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Timor Goksel, official spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], reports that 400 dependents of UN employees were evacuated at the end of last week via Tel Aviv airport. He added that two families had decided to stay behind after signing a statement that the United Nations would not be responsible for them should they suffer any loss as a result of a war in the Gulf.

In a related issue, security sources report that approximately 10,000 people have left the border villages of al-Naqurah and 'Alma al-Sha'b by land for Sidon, Tyre, and Beirut and by sea from al- Naqurah port for Juniyah. The same sources added that the two villages are now completely deserted. Residents fear repercussions on the south in the event of war in the Gulf.

Bangladesh

Acting President's Address on Election Commission

BK1601142791 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1316 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Address to the nation by Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] My dear democracy-loving countrymen, peace be upon you. In my first radio and television speech, I had informed you of the situation under which I responded to the call of the countrymen and assumed the responsibility of the interim government. I told you that my primary and main responsibility after assuming the responsibility at that important juncture would be to restore peace and discipline in the country and to conduct general elections within three months. I still remain firm, determined, and committed to that pledge. The election will definitely be held on 27 February. After that I will return to my work as soon as possible. I had to assume the office of the acting president as I was the chief justice of the country. When I was unanimously chosen as head of state, I had the impression that my sole responsibility and duty would be to conduct general elections within three months. But after assuming the office I was faced with numerous problems. I expected the cooperation of all, irrespective of parties and people of diverse opinions under that situation. But I failed to receive the cooperation I expected from all the political parties.

Immediately after assuming office, I tried to restore peace and discipline in the country. Within (?five or six days), there was some improvement in law and order. But a popular outcry was sparked again when the former president stated that he would soon return to power. For the sake of national security, he was then transferred from the cantonment to the Gulshan residence under police custody. But the countrymen's indignation against the former president and his colleagues kept growing.

An eight-member committee led by the chief metropolitan magistrate of Dhaka accompanied by a close relative of the former president inspected the assets at the former president's residence at the cantonment and a considerable amount of assets was seized. The seized assets included 19.1 million taka in cash and eight unlicensed firearms. Two cases have been filed against the former president on the basis of the committee's report. One was for possessing illegal arms, and the other for having assets greatly inconsistent with his known income. Then the [word indistinct] common people, students and political parties demanded the imprisonment and punishment of the former president [words indistinct] within a few days. I am a judge. I took an oath to fulfill my duty in accordance with the constitution and the law. Therefore, it was not possible for me to accept any demand that was inconsistent with the law. [Words indistinct] law equally applies to all. The law has its own course. In the meantime, about a thousand charges have been brought against the former president and his colleagues. It is impossible for the interim government to deal with these charges within a short time. Therefore, I have formed a three-member inquiry commission headed by a Supreme Court judge. The commission has been entrusted with investigating charges such as corruption, malpractices, misuse of power and will submit a report. The inquiry commission is conducting its work independently. Future steps will be taken on the basis of its report. The anticorruption department, however, is directly filing cases relating to obvious charges. [passage omitted]

The people had long been demanding a fair, free, and impartial election. The Election Commission [words indistinct]. Therefore, I reconstituted the Election Commission with three sitting judges of the Supreme Court. No allegations whatsoever have been made against any of them. The Election Commission is completely independent. [passage omitted]

The Election Commission will meet with leaders of all political parties in order to formulate a code of conduct for the election. Representatives of the government will attend this meeting as well. The election is bound to be free, fair, and impartial if all the parties and candidates accept it and if they establish an all-party volunteer force and cooperate with the security forces. The code of conduct will be useless if it is accepted in word but opposed in deed.

A tendency of fighting and clashes is being noted among political parties, particularly major parties, due to their ideological differences. With the election date nearing, differences among political parties are becoming more intense. That is why, like the [words indistinct] problem, I failed to receive any cooperation from them in solving [word indistinct] problem.

Everyone wants a neutral and nonparty government. But the question is: What does neutrality mean? No one questioned my neutrality during my 37-year career. But some people raised questions about my neutrality as soon as I assumed the responsibility of the interim government. Their statements, however, failed to provide a clear concept of neutrality. I have to make decisions very often on administrative matters. In a country having more than 100 political parties, it is inconceivable that all the parties will be happy with my decisions. My government is completely neutral. Of all the governments formed in this region after 1947, only my government is neutral in the truest sense. Complete freedom of speech and the press prevails in the country now. No newspaper was closed and no journalist was (?blamed) after I assumed the office. A Press Commission headed by a Supreme Court judge, a majority of whose members are journalists, has been formed to review the laws relating to freedom of the press. The commission's report is expected soon. Taking advantage of press freedom, some newspapers and magazines are publishing (?incorrect) news. The press is one of the pillars of democracy. What is needed is a sense of responsibility and respect for the truth. The restrictions on newspapers imposed during the former government

have been withdrawn. I believe in free journalism. I hope every journalist will play a responsible role in this juncture. [passage omitted]

The countrymen today want fair, free, and impartial elections. The cardinal task of my government is to conduct such an election. A fair, free, and impartial election is an election in which the electorates can elect the candidates of their choice without any fear, all parties and candidates irrespective of their affiliation can enjoy equal facilities for campaigning, and election officers can freely fulfill their responsibilities according to their own judgment. My government has taken steps for conducting such an election. The election is bound to be free and fair if all parties and candidates strictly follow the code of conduct for the election. Foreign observers will be invited to monitor the election.

In conclusion, I would like to state that my government will utilize everything at its disposal and, God willing, will conduct fair and free elections. What is needed most at the moment is peace and discipline, respect for each other's opinion, and tolerance. I again call upon all the countrymen, especially the prodemocracy student community, irrespective of their opinions, to extend their help and cooperation in fulfilling this great task. May God protect you.

Pro-Ershad Rioters Clash With Police

BK1601154891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1516 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 16 (AFP)—At least 100 activists were arrested and 59 injured Wednesday during clashes between police and supporters of Bangladesh's ousted president Hussain Mohammad Ershad, security sources said.

Clashes broke out in northern Rangpur District when members of the former leader's Jatiya Party (JP) attacked several shops which defied a strike called by the group demanding immediate release of Mr. Ershad.

The unprecedented JP-called dawn-to-dusk strike had paralysed the former president's home district, police said by phone.

"It was a complete 'hartal' (strike) and there were brief clashes," one police officer said, adding that his station had also came under attack from JP activists.

The strike was also called to protest the cancellation of Mr. Ershad's nomination papers on technical grounds for parliamentary elections set for February 27.

Mr. Ershad, 60, Bangladesh's longest-serving head of state, stepped down December 6 in the face of mass unrest against his eight-year-old rule. He was put under house arrest afterwards, and has been charged with possession of illegal weapons, corruption and abuse of power.

On Tuesday, some 6,000 JP activists clashed with rivals in Rangpur and in defiance of ban held a rally in support of their demands.

In another development, presidential advisor on foreign affairs Fukhruddin Ahmed said Wednesday that at least three international observer groups were expected to monitor the February 27 polls.

The Commonwealth, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Washington-based National Democratic League are the main groups expected to send teams, he told the overseas correspondents association of Bangladesh.

"Our request to Commonwealth secretary general is under active consideration and we welcome anybody who wants to oversee the election," he said, adding that a Japanese parliamentary team could also come as observers.

India

Security at U.S., British Missions Stepped Up

BK1701095691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Security in diplomatic areas of the capital have been stepped up following the outbreak of war in the Gulf region. According to police, patrolling has been intensified around the British High Commission, the U.S. Embassy, and the missions of several Gulf countries.

Shekhar Supports 'New Soviet Initiative'

BK1701095491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0933 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister has expressed his deep distress at the outbreak of war in the gulf. In a statement in New Delhi today, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the longer the war lasts, the higher will be the toll in terms of human lives and sufferings. He appealed to the Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn, to announce the commencement of immediate withdrawal from Kuwait. This should be followed by cessation of hostilities and the resumption of efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. The modalities for a peaceful solution can be worked out by the UN Security Council, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said.

The prime minister said that he has received a message from the Soviet president, Mr. Gorbachev, on a new Soviet initiative. He said India will join the Soviet Union in a common endeavor for peace. India will cooperate actively with the Nonaligned Movement and other like-minded countries to find a solution.

Communications With Baghdad Mission Cut

BK1701064791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The External Affairs Ministry is constantly in touch with Indian missions in the Gulf region and is monitoring the situation round-the-clock. A spokesman of the ministry told our correspondent that there is no communications link between New Delhi and Baghdad. But according to reports received from the Gulf region all Indians,

including the embassy staff in Baghdad, are safe. The ministry is trying to establish contacts with Baghdad.

The prime minister says India is closely watching the situation in the Gulf and has assured the people that there is no need for panic. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said India will have to bear the brunt of the war as its impact on our economy will be severe. Expressing his concern at the outbreak of hostilities, he hoped that the situation will not be allowed to continue for a long time. The prime minister's reaction on the Gulf war came this morning when he was opening the First Asian Textile Conference in New Delhi.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Regrets Gulf Hostilities

LD1701035191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] In the wake of today's attack by the multinational forces on Iraq, our correspondent contacted Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran and head of the Supreme National Security Council [SNSC], to ask his views about this morning's events. The head of the SNSC stressed: We received the news of the outbreak of the war. While expressing our deep regret for the start of the clashes and human losses, we consider it a blow to human life and resources of the region, and we are watching all movements carefully. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized: We are sorry that various efforts failed to prevent the start of clash. The Islamic Republic did its best in this regard.

Armed Forces Close Borders to Warring Sides

LD1701051791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0451 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The General Command Headquarters of the Armed Forces issued a statement a few minutes ago in the wake of the start of war in the Persian Gulf:

In the wake of the start of clashes in the Persian Gulf, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in accordance with the government's policy vis-a-vis the region's crisis, reiterate their previous stand, which is based on refraining from aggression and on respecting other countries' sovereignty, mutual rights, and international borders, and announce:

1. We regard the borders and territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran as something sacred, and we deem it our absolute right to defend these against any aggression.

2. The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will not allow any of the warring sides to use the airspace, sea, and land territories of the Islamic state of Iran.

3. The Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, including the Army, the Guards Corps, and Basij, in full readiness will defend our country's land, air, and sea borders against aggression. They deem it their essential duty to neutralize any aggression, by relying upon undiminishing divine assistance.

[signed] General Command Headquarters of the Armed Forces.

Hasan Rowhani Interviewed on War in Gulf

LD1701050691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0420 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with Dr. Hasan Rowhani, head of the Supreme National Security Council, by an unidentified radio announcer for the "Hello, Good Morning" program in Tehran on 17 January—live or recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Hello, Dr. Hasan Rowhani!

[Rowhani] Yes, speaking?

[Announcer] We are calling you from the program "Hello, Good Morning." Forgive us for disturbing you. In view of the war, the Persian Gulf war, that has regrettably started, we would like to know your opinion on the situation in the region now that the United States has started the war against Iraq. What is your evaluation?

[Rowhani] In the wake of movements which began yesterday morning in the region, we were predicting military operations would soon begin. The multinational forces clearly started their movement on Saudi Arabian land and air territory yesterday. The formation of planes, tanks, and ground forces had changed, as they had moved to new positions. Early in the night their movements became stronger. Eventually, the operations began at 0300 our time. We watched these operations from the early moments through our radars and listening posts. We are very sorry these military operations have started in the region.

We predict there will be considerable loss of life. We also predict there will be a high degree of economic losses. We regret very much that the political alternatives failed and the Muslim people of Iraq are engaged in a clash and destructive war. We hope this war will end as soon as possible so the region can return to peace. As far as we have heard from reports, the air raids have been very intense, particularly on Baghdad, the Basrah region, and the Kuwait region. According to our latest information, the air attack on Iraq's ground forces has begun in Kuwait. We predict a high level of losses. The Iraqis have responded by firing several missiles, but no information is yet available on further Iraqi operations. The Supreme National Security Council and all headquarters and ministries of the country are fully prepared and are watching all the movements in the region.

[Announcer] Do you think the Muslim people of Iran should worry about this war?

[Rowhani] Our people should not have any worries. Of course, we regret the loss of life and economic resources in the region. But our people should not worry at all. People should, however, maintain their vigilance. They

should know that our armed forces and responsible officials have been fully alert and ready for some time. Our people, therefore, should not have any worries at all.

Tehran Radio Commentary Regrets Outbreak of War

NC1701094591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0449 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] [Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The war which had been expected ever since the expiration of the UN Security Council deadline began early this morning when U.S., British, French, and Saudi airplanes conducted a fierce bombardment of various targets in Iraq. In this way, a regrettable war, which can cause irrevocable losses and damage to the people of the region, began.

For the past five months, all diplomatic efforts and ways and means to find a peaceful settlement have met with defeat, due to the Iraqi Government's insistence on retaining Kuwait as what it termed its 19th province. Twelve UN Security Council resolutions could not make any breakthrough. Within the framework of its principled policy, the Islamic Republic of Iran constantly called on Iraq to terminate its occupation of Kuwait, while condemning the presence of foreign forces in the region.

This stance by the Islamic Republic of Iran was reiterated by various personalities and associations, and the repercussions of a devastating war in the region was constantly stressed. In any case, following the expiration of the Security Council deadline, there was no doubt about the inevitability of the war. What occurred this morning—the continuation of which is definitely to the detriment of the nations of the region and to their human and economic resources—was entirely foreseeable.

The Americans and the multinational forces speak of the short duration of the operations, and George Bush, the U.S. President, declared in his message that these operations will not be similar to the Vietnam war. According to observers, he meant that the duration of operations will not be similar to the Vietnam war and these operations will conclude swiftly. On the other hand, Iraq has announced that it will not bow down to force and will continue its conflict with the enemy.

In any case, it is too early to make any predictions about the operations or their duration. The Iraqis claim that they have the strength to fight and to continue the conflict. On the other hand, the Americans believe that they have the capability to destroy Iraqi power and to liberate Kuwait speedily. We must wait and see, and the next few hours and days will provide the best and strongest verdict on these claims.

What is definite, however, is that human and economic losses will be sustained by the people of the region more than anyone else. One point which merits attention is that the Zionist regime is seeking to capitalize on the situation for its own interests. The Muslim nations of the region should be aware that the enemy is lying in wait, and the revolutionary Palestinian Muslims should be vigilant, and should not permit even the slightest weakening of their struggle against the Zionist usurpers.

Fajr Military Maneuvers Postponed

LD1601154791 Tehran IRNA in English 1406 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—Iran has postponed the month-long Fajr (Dawn) maneuvers scheduled to start this week, according to a military commander.

The preparatory stage of the large-scale maneuvers covering 15,000 kms of the southern and western areas of the country and involving the ground forces of the Army, the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and its affiliated Basij (mobilization) forces, started last Saturday.

A commander of the maneuvers identified by the afternoon daily KEYHAN as Mr. Akbari, told the IRGC press center in Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, Tuesday that the maneuvers were postponed due to "geographical conditions" and "certain restrictions" which he did not disclose. He did not specify until when the war games had been postponed.

In case a war breaks out in the region, he was quoted by KEYHAN today, the Basij volunteer forces will not be deployed in the wake of the "current social atmosphere" and in order to "avoid public disorder."

He said as instructed by the General Command the Iranian Armed Forces are responsible for safeguarding the Islamic revolution and the country's territorial integrity. "If war breaks out in the Persian Gulf it may spread to Iran as well and therefore our Armed Forces are in a defensive position," he further said.

The commander added that the Army will be responsible for defending the western areas, and the IRGC will protect the southern regions of the country if the flames of war spread to the Islamic Republic.

Meanwhile, 'Ali Reza Afshar, commander of the Basij resistance forces said in the same interview that Iranian Armed Forces will defend the revolution against any threats. "Our position will be defensive, and we will only protect the revolution and the Islamic Republic," he said, indicating that Iran will not involve herself in favor of either party in the conflict.

*RESALAT Reports 21 Nov 90 Majles Session

91AS0260A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 22 Nov 90 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Division—An open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was held yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

In this session, after remarks by representatives of Kerman, Saqqez, Baneh, and Khash, the Majles session was

called to order and continued with the investigation of the amendment to the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] budget bill.

The following is the text of the speeches by the pre-agenda speakers and edicts of the Islamic Consultative Majles.

Mostafa Moa'zenzadeh, the representative of the people of Kerman: Slogans without action result in the loss of the people's trust in promises and cause turmoil in the national economy.

The first pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Moa'zenzadeh, from the Kerman constituency, who in his remarks stated: The history of pure Mohammaden Islam is the manifestation of high morale, bravery, and martyr-seeking. It begins from the bloody land of Hoseyn's Karbala and extends to the bloody Khordad 1342 [22 May-21 June 1963] and Bahman 1357 [21 January-19 February 1979]. The glorious Islamic revolution began with the brave cries of the great vigilant man of history.

Continuing his speech, he referred to Basij Week and said: Basij Week is the reminder of the high, grand response of the noble children of the revolution to the call of their grand leader who calls on them to defend human values, high aspirations, justice, and freedom. The epic-making Basijis, who stood firm in confrontation with one of the most savage, cruel, and inhuman aggressions during one of the harshest and longest wars in history. Thus, they composed a long poem of courage, acceptance of responsibility, sense of justice, patience, sincerity, loyalty, faith, selflessness, will power, and steadfastness with every drop of their blood. The Basijis about whom their imam said: "With this broken pen and closed eyes, what can I say about this nation, its steadfastness, these fighters and their struggle? Then it is best that I break the pens and halt them from writing and instead ask the Almighty to reward the combatants and their relatives and those who are hurt and their loved ones." My Basiji brothers, remember the remarks of that great leader who told us: "We should be prepared in any event. We have unpredictable and decisive days ahead of us that require the scouts of Jihad and martyrdom to be present on all the scenes. They should be weary of trickery and deceptions of world-mongers." My dear Basiji brothers, unkindness of friends and foes may be tolerable if we do not forget the days when we were side by side.

The speaker then referred to the developments concerning the private sector in Iran and said: The developments concerning the private sector indicate that, at the start of the 1340's decade [1961-1971], when the world imperialism—for its own interest and due to the prevailing world conditions in those years—felt the need for certain developments in Iran, especially in the economic sector, forced the Shah's regime to place Iran in the path of the plundering goals of imperialism with its infamous White Revolution. As a result of these developments, a new private sector emerged—due to the conspiracy by elements of the Court and multi-national corporations—and engaged in establishment of factories which, for the most part, produced consumer goods. Due to their self-serving goals, they built the economic foundation of the country on a wrong basis. The inattention to capital and intermediary industries resulted in a severe imbalance in national industries. The share of capital industries was only 10 percent of the national industries, while the rest were mostly assembly lines for making automobiles.

The focus of intermediary industries was mainly on building materials while the production of steel and other materials which could revamp the national industries were largely ignored. The objective of this industrial infrastructure was none other than engaging in propaganda for increased consumption and production of more consumer goods which were, for the most part, dependent upon petro-dollars. Raw materials and machinery parts were imported from abroad. As a consequence of this move, certain networks within the private sector were expanding rapidly and—by utilizing the easily-earned petro-dollars, unruly importation of consumer goods and materials and domestic productions—were amassing great wealth. The traditional private sector was also trying to find a place for itself in all of this and take maximum advantage of the created industries. However, its movement was slower than the competition, due to its inherent characteristics, and had focused its activities mostly in the area of foreign trade.

Continuing his remarks, he said: The glorious Islamic revolution of the Iranian nation led by their great leader foiled the influence of international plunderers and their domestic partners. Capitalists who had swindled the wealth of the people by conspiring with the ruling politicians fled Iran and the factories which were mentioned above fell into the hands of young managers who had mostly moved up as a result of the revolution. The efforts of these managers, during the past several years, were geared toward changing the national industrial infrastructure and lessening dependence. The adverse financial condition of factories, strikes during the initial years after the revolution, and the unruliness of those days were examples of problems which these managers faced. Therefore, if we objectively look at governmental management during the recent years we do not find it, at least, unsuccessful—although some try to distort the reality. However, the discussion undertaken these days about the national industry—which should be looked upon with more care—is about changing the industrial infrastructure of the private sector which is being debated under the slogan of "leave the people in charge of their own affairs". In fact, this issue requires serious scrutiny of the infrastructures of national economy and industry.

Continuing his analysis of the infrastructure of national industry, the representative of the people of Kerman stated: In large part, the private sector of the country consists of two groups: The traditional private sector which, no doubt, is unwilling to waive the huge profits

that can be gained these days in the trade sector and, in which, this group is well versed—in line with its conservative traditions—and invest in an industry which, according to them, lacks the necessary guarantees. Nowadays, many fundamental industrial agreements have also fallen prey to the brokerage sector and are being bought and sold like goods without containing any movement in the direction of production and expansion. Capitalists [investors] are less inclined to acquire factories. Many instances of such hesitance may be noted in the tests that have been conducted and, in case any such instance of acquiring a factory can be found, the purchase is slated from the commercial angle rather than the industrial. It means that, before thinking about production and expansion of national industry, a wealthy individual will be pre-occupied more with the price of land, machinery, and the specific factory or whether or not he will able to get the seven-toman [70 rials] foreign exchange dollar!?

Another group of individuals who entered the brokerage market after the revolution—due to war conditions and the ensuing pressures on the national economy—rapidly amassed huge wealths through various methods. Formation of capital bailment trust companies, buying and selling foreign exchange, gold, and antiques, colluding with some deviated elements in the governmental system and disrupting the distribution system, brokering and middlemanship and taking advantage of the new-found appetite resulting from some shortages in the society are examples of such methods.

The speaker then stated the conclusion of his arguments as follows: We should not miss the opportunities which have been gained for the national industry with the vain hope of the presence of a strong private sector capable of solving the problems of national industry and changing the infrastructure of this sector. Today, our private sector is composed of two groups: The newly emerged group that has filled its pockets as a result of the chaos in the national economy and easy profits from the trade sector. This group is not bound to any moral human or even national principles and will not waive such profits easily.

The other group is the traditional private sector that does not look favorably upon industry and is not willing to be present on this scene. The only remaining one is a small private sector with little capital, which is composed of tradesmen, engineers, and specialists who are active—in their endeavors and with their own capital—for the sake of national progress. They deserve to be commended and, I believe, our industry must make itself reliant on creative, inventive, and interested forces so that they may smooth the path to industrialization of the country through utilization of all resources. So much psychological pressure on governmental management will be detrimental for industry.

Continuing, Mr. Moa'zenzadeh pointed out: At the time when Mr. Hashemi introduced his cabinet, he said: "I do not need political cabinet ministers because I can take care of that myself. I need working individuals." However, regretfully, we witness that, in their oft-given interviews, cabinet ministers speak of long, tedious, and, perhaps, impractical and unrealistic plans rather than tending to workable and practical issues. Ministers in charge of industrial affairs have had, on the average, one interview every two weeks and, due to the shortage of sensible information, have been forced to talk about conjured issues which are not considered practical in the real world. A pledge that was supposed to be finalized in the month of Khordad [22 May-21 June] and the brother members of the Majles commission had insisted that the minister refrain from announcing the pledge before all facilities and resources have been prepared has been regretfully made public. Now, eight months after the pledge to the people was announced, the brother members of the commission noted in their inspection of the factory—which took place two weeks ago—that the production has not yet been activated and the line is still idle.

Esteemed Ministers! Look at the wishes of the people and state the facts instead of keeping busy with epitomes. This is indeed political game-playing in which you were not supposed to engage.

Such slogans are the cause of at least two fundamental problems in the society: Firstly, it results in the people's loss of faith in the officials, their words, and their promises. Secondly, it subjects the national economic climate to unruly and deadly seizures. The shortage of deeds cannot be compensated with words. If you do something people will find out and there will not be any need for shallow interviews.

He then referred to the national industrial expansion strategy in the national Five-Year Plan and said: In the Five-Year Plan, the national industrial expansion strategy is a combination of replacement of imports and expansion of exports. The esteemed ministers are charged with implementation of the approved policies and the program, per the exalted leader of the revolution, is of value. Later we note that the minister in his interview states the national industrial strategy as merely the exports and, in effect, speaks in contradiction to the plan's strategy. While he states such cliches about exports, in practice he fulfills only a few percent of his export obligation. From $430 million export obligation of the national industry during the first five months of the year only $80 million have been fulfilled—71 percent of which has been copper ingots and seven percent has been sulfur. Exports by the Ministry of Industries have come to $13 million and exports of the Ministry of Heavy Industries has been a mere $4 million. I am one of the proponents of industrial exports and consider its combination with import replacement strategy—especially in the area of the country's heavy industries—as a real breakthrough. From here I ask the esteemed president, Mr. Hashemi, to prevent the numerous interviews of ministers so that our economy can achieve a degree of stability, at least from a psychological standpoint.

In conclusion, the speaker added: At a time when our society needs solidarity, togetherness, and avoiding divisiveness more than any other time—thank God that some of the political tension has subsided due to the urging of the esteemed speaker of the Majles—regretfully, we suddenly hear that from behind the sacred podium of the Friday Prayer in a key city one of the most sacred aspirations and objectives of this regime, the families of martyrs and self-sacrificers, was the subject of ridicule and the blessed letter of His Eminence the imam, may God rest his soul in peace, without any concern for the reason for its publication, is being referred to as "a torn piece of paper which has been dug up from dirt." All the glory and respect of ours and yours is from the imam. Today, your most important honor is that you have your orders from the imam. Where will such attitudes take you and us?

Mohammad 'Ali Partovi, the representative of the people of Saqqez and Baneh: Our intellectual position is the product of our belief in God and establishment of the just Islamic regime under the shadow of velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult].

Mr. Mohammad 'Ali Partovi from the Saqqez and Baneh constituency was the second preagenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles.

He said: It is the obligation of every one in the Muslim Iranian nation to continue defending the sacred achievements of Islam, because our revolution was not merely a reformist transformation. It has been a grand revolution under the leadership of our late imam in all cultural, political, and economic dimensions. Indeed, our revolution is the resurrection of moral and intellectual Islamic values. For this reason, political directions, popular movements, plans and governmental guidelines must be in line with this special goal and based on the line, methods, and guidelines of the imam, which is ultimately the achievement of pure Mohammaden Islam.

He added: Our intellectual position is the product of our belief in God and establishment of the just Islamic regime under the shadow of velayat-e faqih. Therefore, it is natural that wishes and expectations must be based on these principles. We, the proud and free Iranians, are inheritors of Islamic nobility, honor, and tradition. Therefore, in view of our politicians, for Islam no other culture, policy, and intellect can be the basis for governing the masses. Our cultural, political, and economic views stem from our belief in the Koran. For this purpose, all economic, political, and cultural transformations must be within the framework of determined Islamic economy, Islamic culture, and monotheistic politics. This is the uncompromising divine tradition and the will of the merciful God that the downtrodden be the symbol of power and greatness and the path for the movement of government toward social justice.

He added: The downtrodden await the final reform steps and the world's deprived anticipate the materialization of the noble aspirations of the revolution. We have a people (especially in the deprived province of Kordestan) whose face is tired from deprivation and whose back is bent from the injustices of the satanic regime [the monarchy]. What is our mission for these people, the deprived sector, and for each and every one in the Iranian nation in these sensitive times when nations' cries of freedom and cries of Takbir [calling God great by saying "allah akbar," i.e. God is great] of Muslims, all those subjected to injustice and the world's barefooted are being choked in the throats by the feigned power of imperialism? What role should our revolution play to defeat the cunning and expansionist policies of the superpowers? It is such thoughts that have eclipsed national priorities and the people's interests and gives hope to the nation for a brighter future.

No doubt, the future is ours and we shall remain the immortal, proud people of history. Good tidings to the deprived people and frontier guards of the land of Kordestan that the calamities of the era of Satan [the imperial regime] shall be rectified. In order to correct these disorders and to eradicate the double injustice of the previous regime from our cities, we ask the esteemed government to keep in mind the policy of eradication of deprivation, rehabilitation plans, cultural transformation, eradication of unemployment, and creation of health, treatment, and education facilities.

Mr. Partovi pointed out that: Unemployment is one of the major problems in the province of Kordestan, which has forced over 50 percent of the youth to turn to the unauthorized trafficking of goods in the frontiers. Aside from the loses, this has caused public concern since in several instances young people—who are considered to be national assets—have lost their lives as a result of such activities. It is clear that establishing installations and companies, initiating industrial projects, rejuvenating agriculture and animal husbandry toward expansion of productive activities in urban and rural areas—taking into consideration the existence of raw materials and God-given resources and identifying them—expanding educational and cultural centers, promoting the enhancement of rural areas, creating jobs, employing the jobless youth and rehiring some of those who were fired but since have been rehabilitated or those whose cases are not so serious will lessen unemployment and prevent the occurrence of public difficulties.

He said: We are not seeking comfort for our people since they have travelled the path of hardship throughout history. However, we seek to secure for them tranquillity and to take care of their vital and essential needs. Time and again shortages of water, fuel, health and medical and educational facilities have resulted in severe unrest in the constituency of yours truly, to the point that controlling the death and destruction and realization of educational and public harmony objectives have not been easily possible.

Addressing the minister of education and training, Mr. Partovi pointed out: The directive for facilitation and promotion issued for seven deprived provinces has not

yet been implemented in the province of Kordestan and, due to its vagueness, the whole of the administrative office of Education and Training has avoided its implementation. The war-zone promotion decrees for the city region of Baneh is different from other war-zone cities. The effective date of war promotions for the city regions of Baneh and Marivan is 10 August 1988 but for other cities it is 28 January 1986. The inclusion of the Baneh and Marivan city regions in the list of war-stricken cities by the esteemed Council of Ministers is due to the bombings, several years of homelessness, and martyrs. Therefore, they should be allowed to take advantage of the ensuing privileges, which means directive number 333 of the esteemed Council of Ministers should apply to them as well. The consideration of the period of studies of employees who attended teacher training centers from the year 1354 [21 March 1975-20 March 1976] in their promotion has not yet been implemented. Nothing has been done about the minimum salary of the retired and pensioners and its executive guidelines have not yet been dispatched. The fringe benefits for employees of the education and training organization are dissimilar and, regretfully, the directive for correcting this has not been sent yet. The Education and Training Offices of Saqqez and Baneh face severe personnel shortages and suffer from a lack of adequate educational space.

Mas'ud Hashem-Zehi, the representative of the people of Khash: We should help to flourish and activate the inherent capabilities of Sistan va Baluchestan Province by reliance on strong, capable, concerned, and wise managers.

The last pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Hashem-Zehi, who in his remarks pointed out the problems of Sistan va Baluchestan Province and said: Due to its vast area—the third largest province—and small population, limited facilities and scarcity of divine blessings [rain], cultural poverty and, altogether, lack of production facilities, the province of Sistan va Baluchestan has not had noticeable progress in the areas of production and expansion. Long distance from the administrative and political center of the country, remoteness from major trade and manufacturing centers and, also, bordering the underdeveloped countries of Pakistan and Afghanistan accords this province a marginal status. On the other hand, all economic, social, cultural, and other activities in this province hinge on the attention, kindness, and special decisions of the government as well as local and government officials. Disregarding the problems and issues facing the province by the government and the lack of attention and carelessness of local officials shall leave the shortcomings and problems unresolved and intensifies the existing deprivation. In view of the government's role in the fate and economic as well as social life of the people of the province, the importance of the public sector and the method of its activities, the qualitative as well as quantitative status of organizations that function as the executive arm of the government in the region becomes more evident. The public sector in the region plays a more dominant role and, therefore, it should take advantage of facilities, resources, and personnel befitting this role in order to be able to bring about the needed transformation in the economic and social life of the region and eradicate poverty and deprivation from the face of the province.

If we are to consider experience and method of management as the basis for judging executive organizations in the province, in all the executive and governmental organizations only one-tenth of the employees possess bachelors to doctorate degrees. If we deduct the number of medical doctors from this figure, only seven-tenth of one percent of government employees hold masters and doctorate degrees. The fraction of employees with bachelors degree is three-eighth of the government employees. Therefore, altogether about five percent of the government employees hold bachelor degrees or above. Also, if we decide to base our judgment in regard to methods of management in executive organizations of the province on the personal characteristics of managers gained outside of education and experience, regretfully our province has never been a recipient of this blessing because of its role as the launching pad for forces whose apprenticeship in our province, due to their unfamiliarity with our models and formulas for productive work, has been longer than their tenure and their productive work experience is more in central and higher provinces. As a result, those in charge of political, social, economic, cultural, and security organizations of the province—rather than presenting correct models and examples of these apparatuses—are constantly thinking of ways and methods to protect and safeguard themselves and, consequently, they have acted based on fragmented and arbitrary decision-making practices, the detrimental repercussion of which we are witnessing in the province.

He then added: Acts of insurgency in the province are equally reprehensible and culprits of such acts should rightly be dealt with severely and harshly. However, where is the study and the root of such unrests? Do they have their roots in the past or do they return to the present? And, ultimately, in order to resolve them, do they require military confrontation or do they need other solutions? As a result of mismanagement and due to the lack of foresight and awareness on the side of the officials who assumed responsibilities in the province after the revolution and because of their repeated mistakes of great magnitudes—while, regretfully, some officials who later assumed responsibilities repeated the same methods—today we are witnessing rampant unemployment, narcotics trafficking, insurgencies and unrest in the province.

For example: (1) Leaving open and the failure to control the borders, the unrestricted traffic of Afghans, the failure to utilize the quarantines and camps for the purpose of their centralized and permanent as well as temporary housing, the lack of control and, also, disregarding and allowing their unauthorized travel in frontier regions. Although the dear Afghans are victims of the evil conspiracies of the cruel and powerful forces and have been forced to leave their homes and although they

are now our dear guests, but, the place of guest in the house is always determined by the host.

(2) Equating influential local Baluch individuals with the likes of Khosrow Khan Qashqa'i and others, confronting them, and the consequent escape of these individuals and their families to the other side of the border. These acts have been perpetrated without considering the repercussions of such moves.

(3) The harsh and uncalculated confrontation of importers of some of the goods subject to traditional border trades and some consumer goods. These are the acts of some unemployed people. Beside the aid from the government, the sustenance of the people and the economy of the province is based on such transactions.

(4) Shortcomings resulting from the imposed war, the declining level of income, the spread of poverty and unemployment have provided very suitable grounds for international drug-trafficking bands, insurgencies, and unrest by individuals who had fled the country, Afghans, and those who are desperate as a result of business and income relying on border trade and also the presence of anti-revolution and international bands of the CIA [Central Intelligence Agency] and others have all joined hands and have created very large destructive networks for the annihilation and demolition of the intellectual and ideological roots of our people and our youth.

The representative of the people of Khash, continuing, addressed Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and noted: With all these difficulties, the province of Sistan va Baluchestan is not deprived. Indeed, the country is deprived of the blessings and hidden talents of this province. We should help to flourish and activate the inherent capabilities of Sistan va Baluchestan Province by reliance on strong, capable, concerned, and wise managers and with love for the people of this province. When there are debates about a tourism-based economy, one of its bases is Sistan va Baluchestan Province. When there are discussions of an economy based on the use of ocean and sea lanes, one of its bases is Sistan va Baluchestan Province. Since one of our main obligations is the export of the Islamic Revolution, one of its special centers is the eastern gateways of the Islamic homeland. Where there is discussion about independence and self-sufficiency in the area of agriculture, one of its special places is Sistan va Baluchestan Province. But, at the present time, the lack of job-making opportunities and the growing trend of unemployment and other attractive motivations in production plans that may result in employment of the people earning income and trade for them are not sufficiently existent. The pressures of life burdens all of the poor, low-income, and civil servants in the province.

He gave notice to the ministers of trade, economic affairs and finance, and the governor general of the Central Bank and said: One of the better policies of the government was in the area of reducing the pressures of life, securing the needs of the frontier people, expanding cooperatives and border trade, upon which, on this basis, the frontier people could export some goods and in return, import some. Until the year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988], there was, more or less, some exports and also through the import of some needed goods, very noticeable assistance was extended to the poor and low-income classes in the region. However, regretfully, as a result of restrictions stemming from the executive guidelines of the Export-Import Law, since 1366, the activities of the cooperative companies of the frontier areas were limited to a few items which lacked any foreign exchange earning value for the said cooperatives. This export restriction has tied the hands of cooperatives. Huge debts and high import prices have disappointed all of the members of frontier cooperatives and made them suspicious.

The border trade of peddlers is not an exception to this rule either, and at a time when border trade in various parts of the country must be expanded, regretfully, by reducing trade by several times, the import of goods has been reduced to once per year.

However, by increasing the list of imported goods without the transfer of foreign exchange, in comparison to the goods imported by cooperatives, peddlers note that the dollars they have earned after going through complicated administrative phases is equal in value with the free market. And when they see that importers import goods similar to those of peddlers without the transfer of foreign exchange and by obtaining only a permit, they no longer conduct business within the framework of the border trade of peddlers. However, the import of the so-called goods without foreign exchange ultimately takes place in rials and, on the other hand, reduction in prices due to the import of goods without foreign exchange can take place only after long phases and upon saturation of the market.

He offered the following suggestions to resolve the affairs of frontier dwellers and peddlers: (1) The export of scrap metal, skin, and pistachios twice or three times annually, and by taking into consideration the number of frontier dwellers or peddlers of the region. Also, it shall be conducted by peddlers and frontier cooperatives within specific frameworks of time and under the supervision of the frontier provinces' directorate general of commerce. (2) A portion of the imported goods needed by each province shall be imported only through border trade and peddling so that it is not subject to official imports. [as published]

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Zehi [as published] gave some notices to the ministers of petroleum, agriculture, and reconstruction jihad concerning the problems faced by the city region of Khash.

Edicts

The report by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent on yesterday's open session of the Majles indicates that suggestions and addendums by deputies concerning the bill of Addendum to the 1369 [21 March 1990-21 March 1991] of the National Budget Law were the subject of discussion and study and a number of them were approved.

During this session, the method of increasing salaries of civil servants was approved and this was published in the previous edition.

Based on a supplemental Note, the sum of 11.5 billion rials, from item number 503137, was allocated for a 30-percent increase for teachers in deprived sectors of villages and tribal regions.

Through the ratification of another note suggested by the deputies, credit for unforeseen reconstruction expenses shall increase by 40 billion rials.

The sum of 40 billion rials from item 503002 shall be added to the credit for reconstruction of war-stricken regions, the Foundation for Immigrants of the Imposed War, and national as well as provincial reconstruction projects that face credit shortages. Also, based on another added suggestion, the sum of 10 billion rials shall be added to the item for income of the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles, a plan signed by more than 15 deputies in regard to the determination of publishing rights for official ledgers, subject of Article 54 of the law of Official Document Registration Offices sanctioned on 16 July 1975, was announced to have been received.

In this session, Mr. Hoseyni-Barzanji's question from the minister of education and training concerning the failure to implement the resolution by the cabinet concerning educators and employees of education and training in war-stricken regions of the country was announced to have been received.

Continued investigation of the details of the bill of the Addendum to the 1369 National Budget Law was postponed until the next session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. The Islamic Consultative Majles will hold an open session on Sunday morning of next week.

*Struggle Against U.S. Subject of Editorial

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[Editorial by Mohammad Kazem Anbarluyi: "Struggle Against the United States"]

[30 Oct pp 1, 12]

[Text] The secret of "survival" and "continuation" of the struggle against America and world arrogance is the enduring philosophy of "velayat-e faqih" [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] within the fabric of the Islamic government.

As long as the leader of the cause of Muslims oversees the cause and rules with wisdom from the position of jurisprudence and justice, the anti-American and anti-arrogance struggles of the Islamic nation, ever blossoming and searching day after day, shall continue its proud movement all across Islamic lands.

It can be definitively stated that the slogans of "Death to the anti velayat-e faqih" and "Death to America" are two fundamental and central slogans in our domestic as well as foreign policies. They are the guarantors of the survival of the Islamic government in a world that witnesses grand and historic transformations each and every moment. Every day the world faces new equations and experiences new relations.

It is known that with the crash of Marxism, the change in the fabric of the political, economic, and military geography of Europe, the conclusion of the Iran-Iraq war, the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, and geo-political changes in the Persian Gulf region the most complicated crises of the world since the post second World War has come to existence.

The deep and divine understanding of the imam of the nation (may he rest in peace) regarding the prelude to the development of such crisis caused His Eminence in the final days of his glorious life to implement certain acts which perhaps, one of its reasons could be to safe-guard the well-being and interest of the Islamic nation as well as to protect the heartland of the house of Islam.

The historic letter of Imam Khomeyni, may he be placed in God's paradise, to the head of the last remainder and inheritor of the atheist Marxist ideology, the acceptance of Resolution 598 amidst the disbelief and astonishment of political observers, the opening of the debate concerning the absolute velayat-e faqih and the announcement of extensive authorities for this position and smoothing the correct path of leadership after himself were among the acts that, after the ascent of that divine spirit, made the Islamic Iran a safe island with a well entrenched government. These acts transferred all of the unrest and insecurities and all of the crisis to countries and regions that had not felt the slightest change in the body of their systems.

Iraq, the country that for over eight years drew its sword against the body of our regime, is now under a total blockade of the world arrogance, who, until yesterday, was fighting with Iran in order to protect their interests. The Persian Gulf countries are all within range of long-range Iraqi missiles and face the attack of the Ba'th Army. Kuwait is the first sacrifice of this transgression and now Saudi Arabia is awaiting the massive explosions that, until yesterday, could only be heard in Tehran, Baghdad, Basra, and Dezful.

American, English, etc. soldiers in the burning deserts of Arabia are awaiting marching orders from London, Paris, and Washington.

The world energy market is in turmoil as a result of fluctuations in the price of oil, on the basis of the thermometer of animosity of the "partners of fire". [Reference to Koranic verse indicating sinners and non-believers who shall burn in the fires of hell.]

Secrets of world conspiracies and coalitions against the Islamic revolution are being revealed spontaneously. The least of advantages of this crisis are the secure boarders that we enjoy all over the Islamic homeland and the enemy, whose intoxicated cries could be heard

behind the walls of Ahvaz and Abadan until yesterday—by the blessing of the blood of the most noble and pure youth of this land—reached a point that accepted all fundamental and crucial suggestions of the president of our country and conceded to a peace which embodies and safeguards all Islamic interests. These are all special blessings of the Almighty to our nation.

The sensitivity of regional issues is such that even a small incident can change many an equation that presently is inadvertently to our advantage to the detriment of Islam and Muslims. Sworn enemies of Islam and Iran, in the heat of this crisis, which is considered an unavoidable problem for them, have not refrained from their animosity against our nation and beyond the solution of this crisis seek to harness and ultimately defeat Islam.

It is natural that "harnessing the Islamic revolution" requires certain tools and a part of these tools, due to political considerations, are presently inside the country and are strongly favored by America. The fact that every day some can, for any reason, disrupt the domestic political order and cause turmoil is the focal point of America's hope for the implementation of plans to destroy the Islamic Republic regime.

At a time when the evil forces of the Great Satan are busy inducting soldiers, none other than attaching to the divine rope of "unity of expression" under the shadow of practical obligation toward the exalted jurist leader can insure the regime and Islam against the political, cultural, and possibly military offense of America.

[31 Oct pp 1, 12]

[Text] It was said that the Islamic Republic of Iran, in its relentless struggle against America, has had great successes. And the conspiracy of "harnessing Islam" shall be neutralized by the wisdom of velayat-e faqih and the united expression of the martyr-nurturing nation of the Koran.

Since the defeat of the last remnants of the followers of the Right and the Left and those enamored with love for the West and the East, the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys a fascinating strength and solidity in its internal structure. This reality has so enabled our revolution to depart from defensive positions in political and cultural arenas and even conduct calculated offensives upon the enemy as well.

Due to the cleverness and divine wisdom of Imam Khomeyni (may his soul be placed in God's Heaven) a crisis was created from the story of McFarlane that severely shook the pillars of this country's [America] government for a long time. This event, as confessed by all experts and political observers, was an injection of crisis by Iran into the body of America's political machine. A political machine that has at its disposal the latest scientific and information "know-how" and the latest achievements of sociologists, psychologists, and political science experts!

The imam of the nation even turned the cultural aggression of the West against Islam in the conspiracy of the book "Satanic Verses" into a tool and called upon all Muslims and believers of the Holy Prophet, His Holiness Mohammad (God bless him and grant him salvation) to reject Satan.

By declaring God's decree concerning the infidel Salman Rushdie, the imam of the nation separated the ranks of believers of the pure Mohammadan Islam and those who adhere to American Islam in the world and, indeed, by proclaiming a global referendum, gave the good tidings of the coming of the "era of Khomeyni". The march of 200 thousand Muslims in London—the heart of Europe and the capital where this blasphemy to the sacred presence of the exalted Prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation) had been issued—in support of the divine decree of the imam of the nation proved the offensive power of Islam and the power of the regime against global movements. This power was wielded up to the point that the enemy officially apologized for this disrespect and was forced to respect and recognize the serenity of the Koran and the prophet of Islam.

These two events show that, under the most difficult conditions, Islam and Iran have the power to create a crisis from a political or cultural offense and export it back to its source of initiation.

In view of this undeniable fact, it must be said that the arrogant conspiracy of the Iraqi-imposed war of Iran also suffered the same fate. In the days when fortified bastions of the 2,500 years of the imperial system were collapsing despite the strength of the army and SAVAK [the shah's secret police] and support of the mightiest world powers, meaning America and Russia, such evil plans were being designed to destroy the heritage of Islam.

The regime, the people, and the leadership were called to a massive test. The powerful management for harnessing this crisis, steadfastness and resistance of pure men—who had none other in their heads but the sound of "Our Lord is none but Allah, and therefore we shall resist," created a situation the great blessings of which we are incapable of counting.

History shall remember the imam of the nation, may he be placed in God's heaven, and exalted leadership [Khamenei] as the most remarkable managers of this crisis. And, it shall remember the good people, loyal to velayat-e faqih, as the most alert and noble human beings totally aware of their fate and destiny. This is the first time that mankind, correctly follows and experiences the science, jurisprudence, wisdom, bravery, justice, and piety personified in leadership.

Now the important issue for us is how to keep these conquests and expand the scope of our offenses against the world of blasphemy.

The country's National Security Council—which, after a review of the Constitution, has indeed performed the most precise and expert work on various developments and has determined the fundamental position of the regime amidst extraordinary circumstances—is today an important decision-making center tasked with the "management of harnessing the crisis" presently taking place in the region and the world.

Regretfully, at times, remarks and statements are being made in speeches and public appearances that the requirement for responding to them is to broadcast the sessions of the country's National Security Council moment-by-moment from the Voice and Vision in order to respond to the stated doubts of these gentlemen!

The condition for continuation of serious and practical struggle against America is that, under the presently sensitive situation, we shall act as before and continue on this path by trusting the officials and decisions of the leadership organization.

The people's trust must not be damaged and officials should not be forced to foretell the secrets of the regime, plans, and predetermined policies. Those who do this must be aware to avoid being practically placed in the path of American strategy in this sensitive cross-section of history, while declaring to be "anti-American" and "anti-arrogance".

Our people trust their original real policy-makers and in view of the recognition they have concerning their record of struggle, faith, and their closeness to the late imam and the leadership, consider them more anti-American, more anti-Israeli, and more anti-capitalist than any other speaker.

[1 Nov pp 1, 16]

[Text] Yesterday's talk was about "management of harnessing crisis" and the leadership's successes in confronting possibly the most severe crises that can damage a revolution.

With the grace of God, today we shall talk about the continuation of the struggle against America after the passing of His Eminence the imam.

If we consider the first decade of the revolution, the defense of its achievements against the massive political and military transgressions of the West, the second decade of the revolution can be named as the initiation of offensives and relentless attacks of Islam against all fronts of blasphemy in all Islamic lands.

The collection of facilities and our inherent capabilities in Iran and the Islamic world enables the leadership to implement confrontation with America in the best possible form.

In the new phase, our fight against America can also target the main fabric of the new capitalist system, which is presently engaged in swallowing the socialist world. One of the fundamental elements of the Western arrogance is the "intellectual regime" which rules over the present world order. This intellectual order in the sphere of human beliefs, thoughts, and ideas and, at last, in the sphere of practices possesses certain tools and models which must be precisely recognized and confronted.

The evaluation of power and capability and, perhaps, the weakness and timidity of foundations of this regime will help us to ensure that targeting shall be conducted correctly and avoid sending our arrows astray. Today, we face a phenomena called "cultural industry" as the greatest tool of political domination of the West.

Millions of books, tapes, magazines, films, records, and cassettes and pictures with massive productions are in daily production for creation of something called "culture of millions of masses".

Masses, under the daily bombardment of propaganda of the world arrogance, are forced to see world realities in "special forms" and consider standards and values within the framework of "determined interests and concerns" of the dominant regime.

Nowadays, Western intellectuals speak of "thought management", "mind adjustment and pre-packaged awareness", "control of social awareness", and....

The ring leaders of world public opinion and senders of static in order to unbalance the mental equations of the people, aim to safeguard the stability of the capitalist system by creating reactionary behavior among their addressees and halt struggles against themselves. They are determined to pull astray the movement that has begun against them in Iran and all across Islamic lands.

For example, they tried to depict, that by the passing of Imam Khomeyni (may his soul be placed in heaven), the Islamic revolution will deviate from its principles and aspirations. This was designed to cast doubt in the hearts of Muslim nations concerning their joining this revolution.

The first path chosen by arrogance in order to achieve this objective was by designing the "imam elimination" plan. It meant that arrogance aimed to damage the root of the beliefs of the revolutionary people of Iran, which consisted of "the path of the imam" and "the principles of the revolution," which, fortunately, was neutralized due to the wisdom of the leadership and the alertness of our nation.

Concerning this propaganda ploy of the enemy, the leader of the Islamic revolution said: "By utilizing their propaganda heralds, our enemies claim that inheritance and the path of the imam is credible and respected only for a limited number of people in the Islamic Republic and it will be regrettable if a group of dumbfounded individuals believe this claim." (Footnote 1) (Remarks of the exalted leadership in a meeting with foreign policy officials, RESALAT 24 July 1990)

The propaganda ploys of the enemy were being disseminated at a time when, in most speeches or decrees issued by the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, clear emphasis was being made on principles of the Islamic revolution, the path of Imam Khomeyni, and struggle against America and world arrogance.

Ayatollah Khamene'i depicted the clear path of the Iranian nation as such: "The decisive decision of the Iranian nation is to pursue the objectives of the regime on the basis of the imam's line." (Footnote 2) (Remarks of the exalted leadership in a meeting with the leaders of Islamic movements, 29 September 1990) Also, the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, in the latest confrontation of Muslim nations with the aggressor

America—which took place recently after the revelation of America's security plan for the region and permanent presence of this country's forces in the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf—initiated one of the most serious phases of our struggle from the offensive position against Western interests.

The leader of the cause of world Muslims, by issuing this decree that: "The struggle against America's transgression in the Persian Gulf is Jihad in the path of God," (Footnote 3) (Remarks of Ayatollah Khamene'i, RESALAT 13 September 1990); Islamic Iran officially declared that "Muslims will not permit America to create a security system in the region." (Footnote 4) (The president in a meeting with the envoy of the Turkish government, RESALAT 17 September 1990)

Thus, the American government, in a reactive mood, officially announced its withdrawal from this position, and the president of America said: "American forces have been dispatched to Arabia by the invitation of this government and will leave the region as soon as the requirements are lifted." (Footnote 5) (Bush's reaction in view of the decisive position of the leadership, RESALAT 17 September 1990)

Once more, the leader of the revolution, in one of his harshest attacks against the aggressive policies of America said: "America is the biggest danger for Islam and Muslims." (Footnote 6) (Remarks of the exalted leadership, 29 September 1990) And later, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, in his harshest attack against America said: "If Americans decide to remain in the region, we shall act to kick them out." (Footnote 7) (The president's interview with LE MONDE, 11 October 1990)

These are clear examples of the continuation and pursuit of anti-American and anti-arrogance struggles of the powerful regime of the Islamic Republic. It must be confessed that the slogan of "Death to America" is ever more strong and powerful and our people, following every Takbir [magnifying calling God great by saying "allah akbar", i.e. "God is great"], has kept this slogan as a sacred undertaking.

To be continued.

[3 Nov pp 1, 12]

[Text] In the previous issue we spoke about "cultural industry", "mind adjustment", and "thought management" and also the mass production of this "industry" was mentioned. We also said that the most common production of the "industry" is something that is aimed at creating "mass culture" for millions of people.

Today, we shall explain this further.

Like His Holiness Moses, the God's Interlocutor, the Islamic revolution of Iran was born despite despicable efforts by the world's pharaohs. When the divine fabric of the regime of the Islamic Republic was taking form, the steel swords from the East and the West assaulted the innocent body of our nation. History remembers the days and years when the cannons, tanks, and bombs of the American, Russian, French, and...were beating upon Iran like a drum. The sound of this drum had nothing in its aftermath except the awareness and alertness of Muslim nations.

America and the West, in a clear retreat, reached the conclusion that drawing sword against a nation that has sacrificed everything and has no other goal except "Islam" and "Imam" is a useless task. The reason is that, not only does such an act not turn nations and Islamic countries from the path that Imam Khomeyni (may his soul be placed in heaven) has depicted, but, on the contrary, it might intensify the struggles of Muslims in their most sensitive strategic spheres. Therefore, they decided to launch a rapid and relentless attack on the "contents" of Islam before their [Muslim's] breaking of the "mold and the form".

A product called "American Islam" is the latest type of product that "cultural industries" of the West and America aim to mass produce.

- An Islam which has "prayer" but a prayer which does not prohibit "perversion" and "wrongdoing".
- An Islam which has "haj" but a haj without "deliverance from pagans".
- An Islam which has "Hejab" [Islamic cover] but not the one prescribed by the Koran.
- An Islam which has "the Koran" but not one as the plan for life and deliverance in this world and the afterlife.
- An Islam which has a "leader" but not a leader who is jurist, wise, pious, brave, and knowledgeable about the affairs of the time.
- An Islam which has a "government" but not a government based on advanced Islamic decrees and the probing jurisprudence like that of the House of Mohammad (God bless him and grant him salvation).
- And ultimately, an Islam that no longer hears the cries of poverty and despair of the hungry, the deprived, and the barefoot and does not respond to their cries of "O Muslims help us"! An Islam which has its head in the trough of gold-diggers, international thieves, and the new world capitalism!!

Understanding this conspiracy, the imam of the nation addressed the world nations by planning the "pure Mohammaden Islam" and called on them to "boycott" this product of Western thinking. A long glossary of messages, declarations, and remarks of that divine spirit [Khomeyni] about differentiating "the pure Mohammaden Islam" from "the American Islam" is available.

By proposing the issue of "absolute velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult]" and proclaiming the authority of the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult], the imam of the nation increased the maneuverability power of Islam in confronting this dangerous ploy. Through his

clear understanding of this fact, the imam and the nation demonstrated the "haj" of Abraham, who submitted to the sacrifice of his son.

Internally, the consideration for the interests of "the regime" and "the people" were placed above all other affairs. During the process of issuing the decree for selecting the Expediency Discernment Council, the imam of the nation tended to this important factor and said: "Today, the Islamic world considers the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the ultimate example of solving its problems. Expediency of the regime and the people are among the most important affairs, the resistance before which might question the Islam of the world barefoot in present and distant times and result in the victory of the American and arrogance Islam, supported by billions of dollars, at the hands of their domestic as well as external agents." (Footnote 1) (The decree for the formation of the regime's Expediency Discernment Council, SAHIFEH-YE NUR volume 20 p 176)

The imam of the nation invited the pain-familiars of the Islamic world to serious struggle against American Islam and said: "Since the arrogance of the West and East have been rendered helpless in direct confrontation against the world of Islam, today they are testing, on one hand, the path of terrorizing and assassinating religious and political figures and, on the other hand, the expansion of the American Islam."

Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be placed in God's heaven, emphasized: "The path of struggle against American Islam is mired in a special complication, all corners and angles of which must be made clear to the barefoot Muslims." (Footnote 2) (The message of the imam of the nation (may his soul be placed in heaven) to members of the Pakistani clergy on the occasion of the 40th day of the martyrdom of Allameh Aref Hoseyni, 28 August 1988.)

Now, the intellectual field of the Islamic world is the domain for the presentation of two Islams: "The pure Mohammaden Islam" and "the American Islam". Today we are obligated to cry out the slogan of "Death to America" ever more strongly and audibly.

Certainly, the world nations will have no doubt in choosing the pure Mohammaden Islam and, God willing, the Islam produced by the Western "cultural industries" will have no buyers.

Ayatollah Khamene'i, in his first message to the pilgrims of the Sacred House of God after the passing of Imam Khomeyni (may his soul be placed in God's heaven), warned against the cultural conspiracy of the enemy and said:

"Muslims all over the world should be sensitive and alert to the conspiratorial acts of enemies designed to weaken and blaspheme Islam—especially cultural conspiracies such as writing books, making films, and producing plays against Islam. In this field, the principal protectors of the trenches are writers and artists whose hearts beat for Islam and are aware of the animosity and grudge that arrogant organizations hold against Islam and Muslims." (Footnote 3) (The message of Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the cause of the world Muslims, RESALAT 7 July 1989)

A while back, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, in a meeting with the Free Clergy stated: "Iran is the base of the liberating movement of the pure Mohammaden Islam in the world." He also said: "Expressing this fact that pure Mohammaden Islam, the Holy Koran, and the sacred divine decrees will be the powerful saviors of the desperate and afflicted man, shall be an achievable reality." (Footnote 4) (Remarks by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, 28 October 1990)

No doubt the Muslim people of the world consider Iran as the "base for Islam" and the "motherland of the House of Islam" and consider Tehran as the center for the Koran. However, there should be no doubt that "the cultural industries" of the world arrogance have targeted our "heart", "mind", and "thought" as we have targeted their "heart", "mind", and "thought". This battle is as serious as the political and military battle and we must endeavor so that their arrow does not hit the target and instead goes astray—like their other poisonous and devastating arrows.

[4 Nov 90 PP 1, 12]

[Text] Today is God's Day, 4 November. The day that has been rightly named as the "Day of Struggle Against World Arrogance." The day that manifests anger, hatred, and disdain of the heroic nation of Iran against all the corruption, injustice, and aggression being applied to today's humanity.

The day that the criminal America was named "The Great Satan" and all nations were called to obey "God" and disobey "Satan".

This invitation was extended by the man who, with his immense power, could turn the name of our era to his sacred name—The Era of Khomeyni.

In previous issues, we talked about fighting America in the fields of "politics" and "culture". There was also a mention of the imam's "art" and leadership [artful leadership] in the management of the bloodiest war, unprecedented in the world and the region, since World War II.

With the grace of the Almighty God, in all these fields, what remains registered in the history is the shinning record of a proud life which a revolution might have.

Today, with the power and might of God, we wish to say that the dimension of the continuation of the struggle with and confrontation of the world arrogance does not limit to only these issues.

In the shinning thoughts of Imam Khomeyni, the messenger of light and blessings in our century, there are delicate and minute points in the struggle against world

arrogance which depict for us a much wider scope in the scope of our struggle against America.

The greatest and most massive force of arrogance is the ultra modern science and technology and information the employment of which is the most fundamental tool for dominance and limitless plundering of nations during the dark age of new exploitation and advantage-seeking in our era.

What is being taught in universities as "sciences" are those which pursue a materialistic direction and have been erected upon the foundation of "material"—which shall not guide mankind to the desired destiny.

Four months before the occupation of the den of spies in the year 1358 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980], the imam of the nation in a gathering of a number of professors of Tehran University stated very important subjects which, if thoroughly understood, can start a new chapter in the new domain of the all-encompassing struggles of our nation against the corrupt and sinister system of the West.

Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be placed in God's paradise, said: "Despite the level of achievement, Western universities will merely understand nature. They will not harness nature for morality. Islam does not have an independent view regarding natural sciences. No matter what level they achieve, natural sciences will not be what Islam seeks. Islam harnesses nature for the sake of reality and guides all toward unity and monotheism. All the sciences which you name and your boasting about foreign universities—and rightly so—is only one page of the creation—thinner than all other pages.

Therefore, the feature which Islam seeks from these (natural sciences) is non-existent in the West and, even if it were to be found, it would be a rare commodity, a rarity. The meaning which we seek from university sciences, the meaning which we seek from traditional school sciences is not the meaning that presently exists and the obvious one which our intellectuals possess.... Indeed, although their work is quite valuable, it is not what Islam wants. What is sought by Islam.... The objective of Islam is that, ultimately, all these be harnessed and made into divine sciences and then be returned to monotheism...." (Footnote 1) (A part of the remarks by Imam Khomeyni, may paradise be his home, addressing a group of Tehran University professors, 4 July 1959)

From this brief expression, it may be understood that:

1. Nature and material must be harnessed for morality.
2. Natural sciences are not independent.
3. Islam will harness nature for truth and then guides all toward unity and monotheism.
4. All these material sciences are but a page of creation—and a very thin page at that.
5. And at last, the objective of Islam is to harness the natural sciences into divine sciences and return them to monotheism.

These are principals which could take the palace of "science" and "technology" out of the path of Satan and return them to "divine sciences" and "monotheism". If we consider the scope of this struggle to be wider, no doubt humanities as being taught today in universities will be the first target of transformation and shall be guided toward "unity" and "monotheism" as a result of our scientific offensive. The return of sciences from "plurality" and "plurals" to "monotheism" and "unity" is the start of the count-down for destruction of a system which aims to take evil advantage from "science". Science—as known today and which is an achievement of the West—is the thickest shell which forms the main fabrics of the intellectual regime of wayward capitalism.

It must be noted that the discussion is not about negating and denying the new sciences. It is indeed about determining its motive, destination, and path—the point to which the center of gravity of this struggle returns.

In this battle, two kinds of "science" and "technology" come to existence:

- One is the science that determines the fate of "religion" and posts it to a corner of history as an ornament!
- And the other is the one which determines its fate with a "monotheistic world vision" and seeks the aid of "monotheism".

In other words, it is not the religion that finds "delivery and expansion" through scientific advancement but, in fact, it is "science" that finds "delivery and expansion" based upon "inspiration and revelation". This the most delicate, the most precise and, at the same time, the most serious of our clashes with the world arrogance.

By reliance upon the sacred decrees of pure Mohammaden Islam, the Islamic revolution has the potential to administer the affairs of the world and is of the opinion that the status of every and all things must be determined on this basis. On the other hand, the West and world arrogance claim that, through scientific advancement, the status of everything—even "religion"—has been determined!

In the field of such a battle, the effectiveness of millions of masses loyal to Islam is no longer adequate. Only those who are not tricked by the glitter of sciences and are still dedicated to Islam and the innocent, aggrieved, and plundered nations shall remain the "heroes" and "champions" of this cause. Now, universities all across the country are the scenes of such a battle. Today is the day to doubt the motivation of all sciences that are at the service of Satan and today is the day of returning the destination of sciences to "unity" and "monotheism". Today the meaning of the slogan of "Death to America" and negation of arrogance on this scene must have the

same warmth and enthusiasm of the scenes of political, military, and cultural struggles of our nation.

To be continued.

*Appointments to Various Offices Announced

14 Nov 90 Appointments

91AS0344A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 14 Nov 90 p 8

[Text] The financial and administrative deputy minister of agriculture appointed 'Abbas Nazari director general for administrative affairs, Mostafa Mahutipur director general of the office of job organization and classification, and Hamid Navvab-Safavi director general of the personnel office of the Ministry of Agriculture.

In a decree issued by Dr. Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance, Ja'far Farzbod was appointed director general of economic affairs and finance of Mazandaran Province.

In a decree issued by Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani, the vice president and director of the Plan and Budget Organization, Mohammad Reza Kordestanchi was appointed director of the Plan and Budget Organization of Western Azarbaijan Province.

In a decree issued by the minister of culture and higher education, Mohammad Reza Hamidizadeh was appointed head of the "international institute for adult literacy methods" and began his work.

This institute is affiliated with the UN scientific and educational organization (UNESCO) and responsible for choosing the best possible methods to spread literacy.

Hamidizadeh was previously the director general of the scientific and international cooperation office of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

21 Nov 90 Appointments

91AS0344B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 21 November 90 p 4

[Text] In a decree issued by Dr. Hadi Nezhad-Hoseynian, the minister of heavy industries, Engineer Ahmad Jadir was appointed deputy minister for projects and plans of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and began to work.

In accordance with separate decrees by Minister of Commerce 'Abdolhoseyn Vahaji, Mohammad Hoseyn Esma'ili-'Allafi was appointed director general of commerce of the Eastern Azarbaijan Province and Mohsen Bahrami-Arz-Aqdas as director general of commerce of Khuzestan Province and began to work.

In a decree issued by Engineer Mohammad Sa'idi-Kiya, the minister of roads and transport, Engineer Hoseyn Qorbani-Zarkalami was appointed director general of roads and transport of Sistan va Baluchestan Province.

Dr. Mostafa Mo'in, the minister of culture and higher education, in separate decrees, appointed Dr. Mehdi Bahadorinezhad as the council for "research and complementary education" and Dr. Hoseyn Rahimi as the "council in educational testing affairs."

Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani, vice president and director of the Plan and Budget Organization, appointed Mohammad 'Abbasi as director of the presidential, public relations, and guidance office of this organization.

Also, in a separate decree issued by the head of the Plan and Budget Organization, Esma'il 'Ameri-Golestan was appointed head of this organization in Lorestan.

In accordance with a decree issued by Dr. Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance and president of the general assembly of the national Iranian public warehouses and customs service company, Hashem Taheri, council to the minister, while retaining his position, was appointed chairman of the board of directors and general director of the national Iranian public warehouses and customs service company.

Engineer Tabataba'i, deputy minister of housing and director general of the Urban Land Organization, issued decrees appointing Biyuk Sareminia as director general of properties and Reza Foruzandeh as director general of urban land for the Province of Tehran.

5 Dec 90 Appointments

91AS0344C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 5 December 90 p 4

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Abtahi, deputy for international affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, appointed Seyyed Sadeq Kababi as the cultural director general for Africa and the Arab Middle East, and he began his job.

In a decree issued by Engineer Morteza Mohammad Khan, deputy minister of economic affairs and finance and director general of customs, Sa'id Tavakkoli was appointed director general of the office of organization, training, and budget of customs and began his work.

In a decree issued by Dr. Iraj Fazel, the minister of health, Dr. 'Ali Nowbakht-Haqiqi, deputy minister for treatment affairs, while retaining his position, was appointed head of the deputy administrative and financial office of this ministry.

In a decree issued by Karbaschi, the mayor of Tehran, Engineer Heshmatollah Farhang was appointed director general for Tehran city beautification and began his duties.

In ceremonies in the presence of General Sohrabi, the commander of the gendarmerie, and a group of the personnel of the 22-Bahman barracks, General Aslanzadeh was introduced as the new commander of the military sciences college of the gendarmerie.

Upon the suggestion of the minister of foreign affairs and the approval of the president, Dr. Nasrollah Kazemi-Kamyab was appointed the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Yugoslavia.

The director general of the graduates of the Ministry of Health and Treatment was appointed.

In a decree issued by the deputy minister for student affairs, "Mohammad Kamali" was appointed.

In accordance with a decree issued by Dr. Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance, Seyyed Taghi Hoseyni was appointed director general of the Iranian government printing company.

Upon the approval of the supreme council of the National Iranian Steel Company, Engineer Ahmad Sadeqi, Engineer Ahmad 'Ali Karbala'i, Ahmad Harati, and Engineer 'Alireza Mohammad-Baqerian, retaining their positions, were appointed as the board of directors of the National Iranian Steel Company.

Upon the suggestion by the minister of foreign affairs and the approval of the president, 'Abdolreza Farajirad was appointed the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Sri Lanka.

Upon the suggestion of the minister of foreign affairs and the approval of the president, Hoseyn Maranki was appointed the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Conakry, Guinea, and Reza Hoseyn Mirza-Taheri the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Vietnam.

Mirza-Taheri had previously held the positions of ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Thailand and secretary of the supreme council of publications of the documents of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In a decree by Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani, vice president and head of the Plan and Budget Organization, Hasan Haj 'Alifard was appointed head of the huge economy office of this organization.

Also, in decrees issued by Engineer Ahmad Shafa'at, deputy director of the Plan and Budget Organization and head of the National Mapping Organization, Engineer Hadi Hoseyni was appointed executive in charge of the national projects, Engineer Gholamreza Ashraf-Esfahani was appointed the head of the Mapping College, and Engineer 'Alireza Qarehgozlu was appointed the head of the public relations office of the National Mapping Organization.